THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1961

THE QUESTION MARK

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With this issue, along with the patron of this month, Janus, the Staff looks in two directions. The year just ending, now merging into the Past, we see as a new low in frustration, as we attempted to maintain service standards with a smaller staff, fewer materials, shorter hours and overcrowded conditions. But, gazing toward the coming months, we hopefully look to a bettering of conditions with the advent of State Aid.

The Staff looks in two directions too, to assess the gains made during the year by the Association officers and committees, and, after the elections on the 20th, forward toward new goals under new officers and workers.

In this brief pause between Past and Future, let each of us assess most carefully, his or her value, both as a member of the Library working team and as a member of the Association. Has each of us contributed not only the full value due to the whole, but that little extra needed to make the difference between success and failure? If there have been complaints, has the complainor really earned that right, through his own competent service to the public and the Association, or has he merely been a wind blowing in a void?

And what of the place of each individual in the future of the Library and the Association? Shall it be as Contributor or Deterrent? Happily, the choice is ours. Let it be graven on Time with tools of true service, strong integrity, and understanding kindness, when January 1962 is here!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

We would like to call to your attention the annual business meeting of the Staff Association which will be held on Friday January 20. This meeting is also the occasion for the election of officers for the coming year. Be interested enough to come and vote, or send in your absentee ballot.

Remember this is your organization and your responsibility. It is your interest that will make the BPLSA a vitally alive body. However, you must participate actively.

If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please communicate with the Executive Board, and if you are interested in a particular committee, please so indicate. This is one way to keep the BPLSA alive and serving you.

RUTH M. HAYES

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Robert J. Allen, Book Stack Service
Esther S. Chute, Periodical and Newspaper

Transferred

Mrs. Mary V. Curado, Jamaica Plain to Egleston Square
Philip Flattick, Book Purchasing to Science and Technology, Patent Section
Mrs. Winifred Frank, Codman Square to Jamaica Plain
Martin J. Laughlin, Science and Technology to Periodical and Newspaper
James A. Monahan, Central Charging Records to Science and Technology, Patent Section
Sarah Richman, Judaica to Upham's Corner
Minna Steinberg, Catalog and Classification (R & RS) to Judaica
Michael J. Venezia, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS) to Science and Technology, Patent Section

Married

Joella B. Werlin, Rare Book, to Lawrence Zivin, January 1

Resigned

Josephine Del Longo, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS) to accept another position
Mrs. Nanella Warren, Egleston Square, to move to New York

Retired

Catherine P. Loughman, Uphams Corner
Anna L. Manning, Education
Olive M. Neilson, Allston

WHO'S NEW?

Theresa Ouellet, Book Purchasing, is one of the co-op students from Northeastern. After graduating from Billerica Memorial High she entered the College of Education at Northeastern and hopes to become a high school history teacher. Theresa likes bowling, ice skating, roller skating, and most of all, dancing.

*

Carolyn Rees, Education, attended Hiram College, Ohio, and graduated from Wheaton, with a major in French, and minors in German and Music. She worked nearly a year in the reference department of the Newton Library, was selected as one of the Massachusetts guides for the U.S. pavilion at the Brussels World Exposition, travelled extensively, met a charming Italian representative to whom she is engaged, returned home to help move her family to their newly restored 200 year old home in Holliston, returned to Rome to work in a public relations office for 15 months. She is now attempting to cut the red tape necessary to get her fiancé into this country by next summer, when they plan to marry.

*

Book Purchasing's Richard F. Sullivan comes from Fitchburg and is now living in Boston while attending Boston College evenings. He is majoring in Social Sciences and plans eventually to teach.

*

Gordon Hayden of Book Preparation is married and the father of a three and a half year old son. He has lived in South Boston all his life, spent three years in the Marines after graduating from high school. Gordon's leisure time activities include reading (philosophy, psycho-analysis, psychology) and chess.

*

Our "mail-man", John McGivney, Records, Files, Statistics, is also a Northeastern co-op student. A sophomore, he is majoring in government and minoring in history. John hopes to enter the Foreign Service after graduation. He is a member of the military honor society Pershing Rifles which sponsors a drill team and has many

aspects of a fraternity. He is also a member of the Newman Club.

*

Another Northeastern cooperative student with us is Martin Qualters, Book Stack Service. He is class of 1963 and a Modern Languages major. Martin thinks he might like a job in the BPL after graduation. His home is in Roslindale and he is an avid reader of science fiction, and his favorite sports are hunting and football.

*

Personnel's Frances Hale also is a Northeastern cooperative student, majoring in English-Journalism. She commutes from Marshfield, by bus when working, by motorcycle when in class. At Northeastern she has won her sports letter and second prize in the freshman Talent Show, served as a NEWS staff reporter, sang in the Church Choir, and was a member of the Modern Dance Group and Pegasus Poetry Club. Interests are sports, dancing, singing, drawing, writing and oratorical speaking. She is working on a novel.

*

Pete Ranney of Science and Technology, is now a Sophomore at Northeastern, after a year at Theil College in Pennsylvania. He lists his interests as music, books, politics, foreign relations, getting through school, and people. Pete still is undecided about what he wants to do but says he is going to try his hardest to be successful in whatever field he does enter.

*

Thomas C. Saunders, Jr., Book Stack Service, is a graduate of English High and is now attending Newman Preparatory with a view to entering Boston University, College of Liberal Arts. Tom would like to be a social worker. In his spare time he enjoys checkers, swimming, and reading about youth.

*

Cataloging and Classification (R & RS) has still another Northeastern student, John Souza, who is a prelegal major who hopes to go into corporation law. He comes from Tiverton, R.I. and is interested in all sports, astronomy, photography and biology.

*

Book Stack Service also has Peter Dwyer, who graduated from Melrose High, Huntington Prep, and is a senior in Education at Northeastern. He has served as sports editor of both the NEWS and the CAULDRON, and is a member of the Ski Club and the track team. Peter is married and is a prospective father. His hobbies are athletics, reading and bowling.

*

Brendan Stafford, Book Preparation, comes from South Boston where he graduated from the Gate of Heaven High School last year. His ambition is to write, teach, and arrange music after obtaining his Master's degree. In his spare time he plays the piano, horn, and drums.

*

Delores Link, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS), is a sophomore majoring in Sociology at Northeastern University. Her home is in Roxbury. She spent three years in Germany with her father, a member of the Armed Forces. Her future plans include obtaining her Master's degree. She belongs to the Sociology Club and the Modern Dance Group, and outside of school, belongs to Alpha Kappa Alpha.

THE STORK FAVORS DORCHESTER

Phyllis Ferrant Carr, ex-Dorchester and ex- Codman Square, sent in this announcement: "Introducing the Newest in a Small Carr Model, Sheila, born December 3; Weight - 8 lbs, 5 1/2 oz.; Proud Owners: Phyllis and Joe Carr." The Carrs live in Winthrop.

*

Roberta Sacco Conte, formerly YA worker at Dorchester, and before that part-time in Information Office, sent news of her new daughter, Robin Jeanmarie, born November 20. The Contes are still in El Paso, Texas, where Richard is in the Army.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To Trustee Sidney Rabb on his selection as Man of the Year for 1960 by the JEWISH ADVOCATE. The staff is very proud of this honor for him!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 20 BPLSA Annual Meeting and election of officers. Lecture Hall

January 20-February 4 ALA Midwinter meeting, Chicago

February 16 MLA Midwinter meeting Sheraton-Plaza, Boston

WHY DON'T WE ...?

Have two police officers on duty at all times as formerly? There is greater need now for an officer on duty in the front lobby at all times to control the racing children, their noise, and prevent using the elevator as a toy. The second officer would then be available for more patrols throughout the building.

*

Provide some means for furnishing patrons with ink, pencils and/or ball-point pens through vending machines which are available for dispensing these items? (The defunct BPL Employees Benefit Association had similar machines for vending pencils and ink.) This might be done through the Staff Association or an outside firm. A convenient location might be in the area near the public telephones. It would be a real public relations gesture as many of the public now resent being told it is against library policy to give away ink to fill fountain pens etc.

*

Or sell pencils and small pads of paper at the Information Desk? Pencils loaned to patrons rarely return to the desks, and scrap paper does not satisfy the needs of many of our patrons.

*

Equip the Staff Library with a pencil sharpener? Anyone taking notes there must go to a nearby department for this service, which wastes time and interrupts departmental business.

MORE STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Rockland High School. About 100 students in one teacher's classes. 2000 words due after Christmas vacation on one of these three topics:

1. An exploration of Elizabethan belief in witches as compared with Salem witches. (Cf Arthur Miller's the CRUCIBLE)
2. An exploration of Elizabethan ambitions (Cf Machiavelli's THE PRINCE etc.)
3. An exploration of Shakespeare's women as found in MACBETH, JULIUS CAESAR, and ROMEO AND JULIET.

Juniors were required to write on #1, seniors might select any one of the three topics, but those about to attend a liberal arts college were urged to take #2. A mimeographed sheet of instructions on how to submit the paper was given each student, but no instruction on selection had been provided. The students were all at sea, so were the reference assistants on #2, during a period when we had hordes of other students to help. Not all the students were using the BPL.

*

Sharon High. About 30 seniors. Assignment to select one part of the body and write a paper on it. Most of them were asking for "health" magazines and did not seem to know there were subject indexes for periodicals, or how to use them. This too was a Christmas vacation assignment.

*

Cardinal Cushing High. Class of 50 seniors assigned to write a paper involving the reading of several reviews of the RETURN OF THE NATIVE.

*

Boston Technical High. Overusing the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY for an origin of words assignment.

*

Maimonides School. 6 7th grade debaters assigned this topic: Should the Chinese Communists move the coastal population to the less populated areas of the interior? This required rather more selection-of-material ability than a child of that age, who has never used periodical indexes, has. The assignment was given at our period of peak use so that there was little opportunity to provide much needed aid.

ANOTHER SORT OF SCHOOL

Ann Hamer Smith, ex-worker with Children at Dorchester and Neponset, now lives at the American Baptist Mission, 5 Lancaster Rd, Kowloon, Hong Kong. She writes, "Hugh has been appointed acting Mission Secretary and Treasurer...One of the newest projects is the Kun Tong Swatow Baptist Primary School. Over 10,000 refugees with whom we had been working in Tiger Tail Village have been resettled in Kun Tong. Our roof-top school is the first one to be opened ...where, within a few years, approximately 250,000 people will be resettled. ... Our best news is that by Christmas we expect to have a baby with us again, and needless to say we are delighted! We just hope that Stephen (aged 3) likes his Christmas present of a brother or a sister."

CHRISTMAS CAME TO THE BPL

Complete with a bewhiskered and rotund Santa who delighted part of the staff by suddenly appearing, during the lunch hour, in the Women's lunch room and the Coffee Shop to wish us a merry Christmas. Unfortunately he did not remain long enough to seat each lady on his knee, or listen to the needs of the men for gifts. And his voice was strangely similar to that of Bradford Hill! We thank Santa for a definite lift of spirit after his brief visit!

CENTRAL'S CHRISTMAS TEA

Although the Annual Staff Christmas Tea, 1960, given by the Staff of the Central Library for all staff members, now seems ancient history, it will be remembered as one of the most delightful observances of the Yuletide season ever held by the staff. Even though plans and preparations were telescoped into a few days, the results gave no evidence of pressure or haste. Each of the twenty-four "sponsors" assumed his, and her, duties with such dedication that no one was overworked and the results were quite remarkable. Those responsible for decorations made the Women's Lounge and corridors leading there "more beautiful than they had ever been," according to the opinion of those who attended the tea. As usual the staff was most generous; sufficient funds were collected to pay for essentials and to provide decorations for several years to come. The daintily arranged trays attested once again to the fact that the BPL staff are superb cooks - and this art is not limited to the distaff side.

The "pourers" under the direction of Mrs. Grace Loughlin, were kept busy at the tea and coffee urns, while Barbara Whitledge's "servers" looked charming in their gay party dresses as they dispensed goodies.

The kitchen crew, unseen but very essential, played their key roles with the efficiency which always characterizes those who carry out these essential but undramatic tasks, such as filling trays and washing dishes. ("They also serve who only stand - and wash dishes"). Dorothy Shaw and Edna Peck served as "official" hostesses and did a very efficient job - in more ways than one.

The annual custom of music by staff members throughout the corridors was threatened with extinction this year, since so many of those who participated have left the service. However, under the initiative of Betty Drane, this custom was happily retained. The singers were: Sopranos - Veronica Yotts and Caroline Stanwood. Alto - Elizabeth Drane. Tenor - Richard Beauregard. Bass - Edmund Mietzener. Soloist - George Conroy. Celeste - Mary Ann Conroy. Violin - Louis Ugalde. Everyone was happy to see Louis, former staff member and now of Brandeis University, join the group in his usual role of violinist.

After the carolers brought cheer to the staff, they went on to the main stairway where they provided music for the public, both those then in the Library and via television to those listening later that evening. As the television announcer said, he had been looking all over the city for an expression of the Christmas spirit and found it most fully expressed at the Boston Public Library.

The entire staff is grateful to Miss Drane and her group for rescuing this heart-warming custom from its threatened oblivion.

As is always the case, one of the most gratifying parts of these annual Christmas teas is the welcoming of retired staff members. This year it was especially gratifying to have so many "graduates" with us: Elizabeth A. Barry, Gertrude L. Bergen, J. Joseph Danker, Ethel M. Hazlewood, Frances Kelley, Elizabeth M. Kernachan, Marion C. Kingman, Jean B. Lay, Esther Lissner, Anna L. Manning, John McNally, Rebecca E. Milmeister, Mary M. Prall, Helen Schubarth, Loraine A. Sullivan, William F. Sullivan and Julia Zaugg.

This year too, we were happy to have with us three branch librarians: Mrs. Geraldine E. Herrick, Margaret A. Morgan and Mrs. Irene H. Tuttle.

Of course, the "Belle of the Ball" was Martha Stevens. Martha, from the security of her adoring father's arms and her two month's experience in this best of all worlds, observed events with a detachment which seemed to say "So this is what my daddy endures every day - and this is what my mummy left for me". However, her final conclusion seemed to be that she approved of us. Her "A Merry Christmas to you all", observed as decorating that garment reserved solely for infants of tender age, was reinforced by her re-

assuring smile. Martha is no longer just the daughter of Roger and Sheila Stevens - she is now the "Library baby", as we all lost our hearts to her. She had competition, however, in the person of Linda, the charming two-year-old daughter of Jean Watson Weitz.

Thus being able to share the Christmas spirit with those who have many years of library service to their credit, as well as those who have just ventured into this bewildering world, the staff felt that this was indeed a Christmas tea long to be remembered.

E.G.P.

THANK-YOU

The "sponsors" of the Christmas Tea take the opportunity afforded by the QUESTION MARK to say "thank you" to all those who gave so generously of their time, talent and money to help make the tea the success it so obviously was. It would be impossible to cite all those who contributed. However, special thanks should go to Jeanne Hayes, the "ribbon artist" and to Mildred Somes for her attractive invitation-flyer and appealing table centre arrangement, which she so generously arranged and loaned for the occasion. The Christmas spirit was emphasized by the sweet melodies of the staff carolers.

The sponsors are grateful to each one who helped make the tea successful, especially those who so valiantly washed dishes - and then washed more dishes.

EDNA G. PECK
for The Sponsors

P.S. Since the Christmas tea seems to be now recognized as being staff-sponsored, I would like to suggest that next year the "young folks" pick up the ball and infuse some new ideas into this best of all BPL Christmas traditions.

AND CHRISTMAS COFFEE ...

followed tea, when the next morning the Men's House Committee held open house for the staff in the Men's quarters, with the world's hottest coffee flowing freely, mounds of doughnuts, trays of cakes and cookies, music for dancing, and good conversation, bringing the holidays one step closer.

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Christmas Day 1960 was very special for the Joseph Paratores. Little Maryann, 7 lbs., 12 oz. arrived on the holiday. Her mother is the former Anne Degnan of the Director's Office.

*

Announcement was made of the engagement of Patricia Madsen of Dorchester, a senior at Massachusetts College of Art, and Ronald C. Conant, formerly of Records, Files, Statistics, and currently a sophomore at Suffolk University, College of Liberal Arts.

IN VIEW OF STATE AID

Members of the staff might like to see what others are doing or planning in this field, or catch up to date on our own state plans.

There is an article in the December 15 issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, pages 4429 to 4431 by our own Francis X. Moloney under the title of State Aid in Massachusetts.

The WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN for January presents an account of the Michigan Plan on pages 368-369.

The LIBRARY JOURNAL of January 1, pages 52-53, in the article Two Sides of the Same Coin by James E. Allen, Commissioner of Education, State of New York, is an interim report which advocates a statewide cooperative Reference and Research Library Service for New York.

The January 1 LIBRARY JOURNAL also has an interesting editorial on pages 54-55 discussing the "reasonable portion" clause of the Massachusetts State Aid Bill.

BOOKS CURRENT

Is well recognized on page 68 of the January 1 issue of LIBRARY JOURNAL.

BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To that Library Institution which celebrated its 10th birthday in mid-November - the Coffee Shop! And our very best wishes on that anniversary to Sam and Dorothy for all they have done in ministering to a hungry and thirsty staff over the years....

MORE RETIREMENTS

Manning Tea

On December 15, a tea was held in the Women's Lounge, in honour of Anna L. Manning, Curator of Education, who retired from Library service on December 31. She was assisted in greeting her friends by her sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs Charles Curtaz.

Visits of distinguished guests, flowers, telegrams and gifts received from her former assistants, the many friends who came to greet her from Branch libraries, all testify to her warm personality and the esteem in which she is held.

It was a pleasant afternoon for those who gathered in the lounge. Bradford M. Hill, Chief Librarian of the Division of Reference and Research Services, in his usual delightful way, presented Anna with a handsome purse, a gift from her associates. She accepted in an equally charming manner.

Those of us who have known Anna through the years loved her for her warmth and understanding, and all agree on how very much she will be missed.

BEATRICE COLEMAN

To all my Friends:

There are so many people to thank for my tea that it would be too much of a task for an Old Retired Librarian to write to each individually.

May I mention some of the things that impressed me and will remain in my memory for a long time?

The long list of names, typed so beautifully, and attached to the gift card... some I have known for a long time and some for a very short time, and some merely by correspondence.

I am still trying to think what I shall buy with your very generous contribution. My friends are all making suggestions, and if I follow the latest, you may see me appearing in a mink scarf.

My mantle is decorated with cards, letters and even a telegram from Washington. They all congratulate me, but I wonder if I am to be congratulated for leaving such good friends.

I appreciated the visits of those who came in from the Branches, from their homes and from other libraries, particularly in that freezing weather.

And the party itself -- no party would be complete without Seven Layer Cake and Irish Bread, with or without butter.

So to all, particularly the cooks, the pourers, the servers, those on K.P. duty, and the Committee, my gratitude and affection, and my prayers and hopes for a bright and happy New Year.

Very sincerely yours,
ANNA MANNING

MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE

To appreciate the work of Anna L. Manning is to trace an adventure in achievement at once sure, yet subtle. Sure, because not a day goes by without our being thankful that Miss Manning provided for certain materials in Education; subtle because there were no earth-shaking events but there was a "vein of iron" determination to do the things that needed doing.

In 1961 a stranger coming to Education for the first time will not see Miss Manning, but she is there ...the very books cry out: "We are here because Miss Manning wanted the best material in education."

It is interesting to note that she retired as Curator of Education in 1960, the year marking the centenary of Elizabeth Peabody's Pinckney Street Kindergarten, for the present many faceted department grew out of a request in 1900 by the Wheelock staff, that books on the theory and methods of teaching the young child be made available in the Childrens Room.

Miss Manning came from South Boston to the Childrens Room in 1918. Other requests for added materials increased the collection until the Teacher's collection occupied the Elliott Room. It was made an independent department in 1933 with Miss Manning in charge. The collection moved to its present quarters when the Childrens Room moved downstairs.

What is Miss Manning really like? Those who have known her a long time answer, "Anna is the same wonderful person she has always been." Those with a briefer acquaintance place her in that small but wonder-class of GIVERS. Yes, her bounty and concern knows no limits. Serving the public, she felt it keenly the few times she was not able to find the needed information in the department or another part of the library. Those who had the good fortune to work with her, cannot

forget her constant kindness. She set a high standard of work for herself and expected the same from those she trained and worked with. And she fought with quiet but constant determination to make the department the best possible. Steadfast, dedicated and generous, she taught, discussed, wrote, organized, and built up the department we use and enjoy today.

There is no end to the list of those she has helped: students of all ages, teachers, administrators, priests and other religious, servicemen, business men, and ordinary people trying to better themselves.

Outside the library she has worked too with the library at the Paulist Center, her parish library, the Catholic Library Association (which recognized her work by electing her president.) And at present she is working on the library catalog for the s chool a t the Good Sheperd Home.

We wish her continued success and every joy.

"O ye silver trumpets be ye lifted up
And cry to the great race that is to come
That they may hear our music and awake!"
(W.B.Yeats)

JAMES FORD

OLIVE NEILSEN RETIRES

Miss Neilson, after fifty three years of service to the people of Boston, retired on December 31. She began her library career under the directorship of of Horace Wadlin in 1907 at Upham's Corner. From there she went to North End, Orient Heights, and finally to Allston.

As a Professional Librarian with her special position at the registration desk, she had the opportunity to give a pleasant welcome to all who came to the library.

Miss Neilson will be especially remembered for her warm and gay personality as well as her punctuality, although she commuted from Winthrop daily. Her faithfulness in arriving for work every day despite all difficulties can be explained somewhat when you learn that traveling is one of her favorite pastimes.

Another of her interests is the theatre and one which she will certainly be able to continue now that she has retired.

All her friends hope they continue to hear about the further adventures of Johnny Ray, her cat.

We all w ish Miss Neilson best wishes in her retirement.

E.D.

LOUGHMAN LUNCHEON

On Friday, January 6, Catherine Loughman was entertained at a luncheon party by the Branch Librarians, Department Heads, Supervisors and Chief Librarian of the DHR&CS, a group euphemistically known - probably only to themselves - as the Thursday Morning Group. (Since they now meet on Friday morning, some people may, with a certain show of logic, think of them as the Friday Morning Group; but due to the pressure of other business, and pending State Aid, no committee action has yet been taken to change the name.) Miss Loughman, an honored member of this Group, retired on December 31, from her position as Branch Librarian of Uphams Corner. Alumnae Rebecca Willis, Fanny Goldstein, and Marion Kingman, returned for the celebration; with retired staff-members Helen Berkowich and Anna Manning, and colleagues from the other Divisions, forty-four friends in all, gathered to pay a deeply-felt tribute to Miss Loughman for a lifetime of dedicated service.

The Red Coach Grill, which seems to have become the Main Dining Room of the BPL, provided a private, softly-lit room with a seating around a horse-shoe table. The principal decoration, next to the charming guest of honor herself, was a stunning arrangement of yellow and orange chrysanthemums, gold leaves and birds of paradise. A corsage of matching chrysanthemums complemented Miss Loughman's outfit of beige-wool-dress and orange-velvet-beret. Mr. Carroll expressed to her the gratitude of all of us for the legacy of benefit, respect and affection which, through her devotion to her work and her public, she is leaving to the Library; and then he presented the gift - an elegant black, gold-and-silver-tooled Italian leather wallet with fitting contents.

Your friends and colleagues, Catherine, are sad to see you leave. We shall miss your sincerity, your friendliness and your generosity; and we shall miss, most of all, the rare example of your tremendous battling courage. We hope, with all our hearts, that you will be able to come and visit with us again, one day soon. The very best of luck!

FRANCES C. LEPIE

CATHERINE P. LOUGHMAN

Miss Loughman was notable for devotion to her library work, often at great personal sacrifice, and for her integrity of character, tempered by a cheerful and outgoing personality. She inspired confidence and devotion in her staff, to whom she was a friend as well as a superior.

She left the Library Service in 1946 and was reinstated in 1948.

It was her sad task to close two branches, Fellowes Athenæum, which posed unique problems because of the large special collections, and City Point.

The list of "home" branches for her is long: Parker Hill, Roxbury, Allston, Jeffries Point, Uphams Corner, Jamaica Plain, Mt. Bowdoin, Fellowes Athenaeum, City Point, then Uphams Corner once more.

VERA CHEVES

HOUSEKEEPER RETIRES

Mrs. Helen Morrison, our very efficient Housekeeper, is retiring from the service of the Library on January 31.

She came to us in 1946 as a cleaner and was promoted to the position of Housekeeper. Her industriousness, charm, and good nature, together with an innate ability to get along with people, enabled her to do an outstanding job in this position. These same characteristics won for her a host of friends in the Library, and particularly in the Buildings Department.

Mrs. Morrison will continue to reside with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Daniel Coughlin, in Dorchester where, we are sure, she will pursue that favorite hobby of grandmothers everywhere, spoiling the grandchildren.

I am sure her many friends in the BPL join me in wishing her good health and happiness in her retirement.

THOMAS P. GEOGHEGAN

(Mrs. Morrison's friends presented her with a gift of money on the last day she worked.)

SNITCHED FROM THE GLOBE

When Queen Victoria read ALICE IN WONDERLAND, she was so delighted she invited the author, Lewis Carroll, to visit Buckingham Palace to read her excerpts from it.

At Carroll's departure the queen asked that he send her a copy of his next book when it appeared.

A mathematician by profession, Carroll dutifully sent her his next book - a thin volume on quadratic equations.

STAFF LIBRARY

The Staff Library has been undergoing changes recently. After a survey of practices in other libraries and conversations with the Staff Association, it was decided that purchase of popular books for staff use was a drain on the book budget. Popular books have now been distributed to other units of the Library for use by the public as well as staff. From now on, the Staff Library collection will be reserved for professional material only, and it is expected that a permanent Book Selection Committee will be established to carry on the work of keeping the library well stocked with pertinent professional books and periodicals.

Unfortunately many valuable reference materials are not now on shelf. Staff members are urgently requested to treat the collections with care and to charge out all books removed from the room at the Personnel Office. Carelessness in this matter needlessly deprives staff members of materials they need in their work and study.

ERVIN J. GAINES

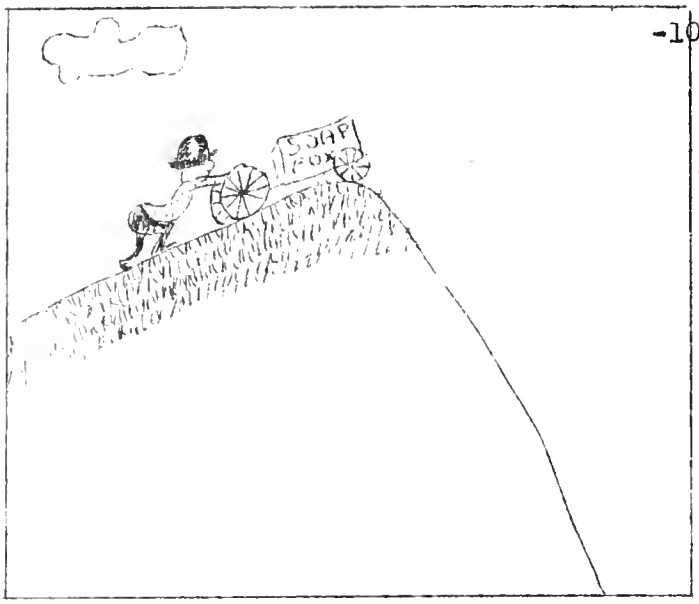
UNDER NEW NAME

Changes come fast in the otherwise staid Rare Book Department. Last month Joella Werlin was introduced to the Staff through our Who's New? column. This month we introduce Mrs Lawrence Zivin, the former Joella Werlin, who was married New Year's day in Houston, Texas.

Mr and Mrs Zivin are living in Brookline.

AND NEW PLACE

We hear that Jim Healey, formerly of General Reference, and late of the library in Stoneham, is now the librarian of New Bedford Public Library. Congratulations Jim!



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

Will I ever see the day that an appointment makes all of us on the staff happy? But this new announcement of an opening in the Judaica section was especially galling to me. First of all I don't think anyone in the BPL is qualified for such a position of responsibility, as this section is not going to remain a small unit tucked away in a little room forever. The Library needs a person of stature and scholarship to meet with and speak to those learned men who have used and will continue to use the facilities. Why the particular qualifications? Why not have specified a P1 or a P3 rather than a P2? How much knowledge of Hebrew and Yiddish? Why should this person have to be qualified as a cataloger? All these questions come to my mind when I remember being told that the personnel office would not hesitate for a moment to hire anyone outside of the system that was a specialist in a particular field, that couldn't be staffed from within the system. How much was this position advertised outside of our own circle? Or is this another case of tailoring a position to fit a particular person?

FIREMANS WIFE

(Editor's note: We believe the Judaica Collection is not yet an open collection, but rather is being prepared for this status. Cataloging experience is the most needed qualification, as that is the first process in readying the collection. Knowledge of Hebrew is necessary to the extent that the cataloging may be completed. Doubtless a person of proper stature will be sought to serve as Curator - once the collection is opened as a department.)

Dear Editor,

Is there no one else concerned about the condition of our books in the stacks? Some volumes appear not to have seen a dust cloth or vacuum cleaner for fifty years.

Couldn't this condition be given priority when staff is available?

DIRTY HANDS

REMEMBER

TO

VOTE

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1961

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1961

T H E Q U E S T I O N M A R K

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 2 February 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

Michael Keresztesi, now of the Grand Rapids Public Library, who served in the Communist-controlled Budapest Public Library until he escaped during the October 1956 uprising, has written the lead article in the February WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN, Thought Control in Communist Libraries. Even to those of us who have been studying Communist propaganda and methods, this is a shocking perversion of library principles.

"Recognizing the immense propaganda value of a well-controlled public library system" the Communists closed the stacks and forced applicants to wait while the books they requested were searched for forbidden ideas by well-trained censors, before the privilege of reading the books was granted or refused. The reading records of the patrons were thus on file for the censors, who might send for individuals for discussion on reading "proper" books. Special catalog guides and special catalogs of Marxist materials were provided to channel the reading habits of the public. Anti-Marxian materials could be consulted for certified research only.

This article should be read by every member of our staff, and thoughtfully considered in reference to individual practices in suggesting books for patrons or for purchase. It should also raise many questions in our minds. Are we of the Free World providing well-balanced collections, representative of all aspects of each question, or are we favoring any one side too much? Do we know our materials sufficiently well to be certain we are able to effect a balance? Do we know the background and attitude of our authors and publishers? Or do we depend too often on reviews in "trade" publications whose primary aim is to sell as many copies of the book as possible? As librarians, we have a responsibility to study our materials carefully and to avoid emphasizing any one point of view, so that everyone will have equal access to all phases of today's problems.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The first meeting of the new Executive Board was held on the morning of February 10. Primarily we were concerned with setting up the organization of committees and materials for the coming year. An order for additional stationery was approved. Approval was also given for payment of dues to SORT. A letter was sent to Mr. Caines of Personnel asking for information on the status of the examination system, the library's present policy and its future policy. A second letter was sent to Mr. Gaines about salaries. We hope to have information about these matters for you in the near future.

You will soon be receiving a questionnaire regarding the Association committees. Some of you have indicated a desire to serve. Please fill in these questionnaires and return them immediately.

Please help your organization by accepting a place on the committees. Here is your chance to let us know you are available and willing. The same people serve over and over again. We welcome new blood and new ideas. Please send in your returns soon.

RUTH M. HAYES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 16	MLA Midwinter Meeting Sheraton-Plaza
February 19-25	Catholic Book Week
March 3	Hartzell Memorial Lecture BPL Lecture Hall

BOOK STACK SERVICE BRAGS ABOUT ...

Steve Davis, who worked on the Northeastern Book Dance, sponsored by the Student Union. Price of admission was a book, which was to stock the Concord Reformatory library. 1150 books were collected.

And Chris Lee, Library Aide, who has been elected News Editor of the Boston College Heights for the coming year. Perhaps he takes after uncle Charlie (Gillis, of Central Charging Records).

WHY DON'T WE ...?

Station a uniformed adult at all times, not a part-time student, at the front door to inspect books for charging? A boy or an ununiformed man does not carry the mental image of enforcement that an adult in uniform would.

*

Permit staff to enter the library via the front door or the Boylston Street entrance on days when the platform is icy or wet? Crossing the platform is dangerous at these times, as feet slide with every step.

SNOW NEWS

Bernard Dougherty and another unidentified public spirited man from the Bindery were observed on their lunch hour a week after the Inauguration Day blizzard, industriously clearing the gutter and drains across the street from the library.

*

Our Jane Manthorne did not make it home from work after the February 4 storm. She became the unwilling guest of the police in the Sharon jail.

*

Jean Babcock picked the day of the February 4 storm to move. What's more, she did!

*

Esther Chute and her brand new fiancé left early the morning of February 4 to drive to Manchester to show her ring to his family. They reached Peabody by noon. That night they spent in the Peabody jail. Esther thinks the floor might have been more comfortable had the cigarette butts been cleared.

*

Kay MacDonald went to a wedding on February 4, which turned into a houseparty through the next day.

CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK

Martha C. Engler, South Boston, has been appointed director of Catholic Book Week for the Greater Boston area by the New England unit of the Catholic Library Association.

Features of the week will be a book fair and forum, and an essay contest for parochial schools.

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

M. David Allard, Bookmobiles
Mrs. Frieda Beitchman, Brighton
Mrs. Elaine A. Comegys, Business Office
Constance M. Cheves, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Donald Chickering, Book Stack Service
Adrienne C. de Vergie, Charlestown
Robert A. Fantasi, Book Stack Service
Patricia J. Fradsham, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
John A. Gilmore, Government Documents
Margaret Glynn, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Thomas J. Henshon, Central Book Stock, Branch Issue
Barry D. Latta, Book Stack Service
Peter T. Lewis, Music
Paul McGerigle, Kirstein
Joan R. Merchant, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Robert M. Murphy, Book Stack Service
Sandra M. Plank, Codman Square
Janice L. Purington, Personnel
Daniel C. Sears Jr, Book Purchasing
Paul Toomey, Open Shelf
Shirley Utudjian, Mattapan
James L. White, Book Stack Service
Arthur M. Wolman, Uphams Corner
Thomas J. Zazulak, Central Charging Records

Re-entered from Northeastern

Anthony J. Bajdek, Book Stack Service
Stephen R. Davis, Science and Technology
Mrs. Brenda S. Franklin, Book Purchasing
Neil Kelly, Records, Files, Statistics
Elizabeth McLucas, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS

Transferred

Robert J. Allen, Book Stack Service to Kirstein
A. Katherine Decker, East Boston to Central Book Stock, Branch Issue
Nancy E. Kelly, Brighton to East Boston

Resigned

Peter Dwyer, Book Stack Service, to return to school
Ernest I. Gam, Book Stack Service, to return to school
Frances A. Hale, Personnel, to return to school
Thomas A. Incze, Open Shelf, to go to Paris
Michael Konowitz, Book Stack Service, to return to school
Delores R. Link, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS, to return to school
John F. M. McGivney, Records, Files, Statistics, to work at the State House
Theresa Ouellet, Book Purchasing, to return to school
Carolyn Rose, Division Office, R and RS, to accept another position
Elicia Rose, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS, to return to school
Peter A. Ranney, Science and Technology, to return to school
John J. Souza, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS, to return to school
Diane Thompson, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS, to return to school
Anthony Tieulli, Book Purchasing, to return to school
John J. Walsh, Book Stack Service, to return to school

WHO'S NEW? ...

Gerald S. Coles, Washington Village, recently moved here from Buffalo, where he obtained a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Buffalo, and later taught in the Buffalo school system. He is married and has a 16 month old son. Gerald plans to attend Simmons for his Library Science degree. He has an interest in Art History and would like to combine it with Reference work. His other interests include folk music and weight-lifting.

*

The warm smile in the Director's Office belongs to Mrs. Katheryn Murphy. Mrs. Murphy comes to the B.P.L. from Liberty Mutual where she worked with the drafting department. She lives in West Roxbury and is kept busy by her husband, a 12 year old daughter, Virginia, and a Dalmatian. Gimy is very bright and active, and finds time between staying at the top of her class and piano and German lessons to take good care of Mummy when she has a cold.

*

Esther Chute has joined the Periodical and Newspaper staff after a summer in Switzerland, where she led a group of "Experimenters", two years at Radcliffe while she earned an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, and four years at Smith during which she spent her Junior year in Geneva. Esther collects shells and rocks as a hobby.

THE BROOKLYN PLAN

Librarians in Massachusetts had an opportunity to hear about the new "Young Teens" service, undertaken by the Brooklyn Public Library, at the January 26 meeting of the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults.

Geraldine Clark, Assistant Co-ordinator of Adult Services in Charge of Young Teens, spoke about the Brooklyn plan which librarians all over the United States are watching with great interest.

Young Adult work began in Brooklyn about the same time as it did in Boston. Almost two years ago, Brooklyn felt that the division of pre-school to eighth grades in the Children's Room and ages fourteen to twenty-one in Young Adult sections was not a good one. Their Young Adult book collections were being used extensively by Junior high school students who had to get a signed slip from the Children's Librarian in order to do so. Meanwhile their Senior high school students were using the adult book collection. The administration decided that the library could give better service by changing the Young Adult sections to Young Teen areas to serve the twelve to fifteen year old group. The senior high school students would be absorbed into the adult area.

Under this plan a borrower is given an adult library card when he enters the seventh grade. He is encouraged to use the Young Teen book collection, but he has free access to the complete adult book collection.

The Young Teen book collections are the former Young Adult collections with little if any changes. Brooklyn's Young Adult book selection policy, like ours, had followed the ALA standards of twenty per cent teen age titles and eighty per cent adult titles. However, Miss Clark stated that the volumes in any given Young Adult collection were not in this ratio. The Young Adult collections contained many more than the recommended twenty per cent teen age titles. Young Adult book quotas have now been allocated to Young Teens.

Former Young Adult Librarians were made Young Teen Librarians if they wished to work with this younger age group.

High school students now form one segment of the adult public. Although during this first year of change, there has been little opportunity for Adult Librarians to do any school visiting or programing for this group, it is hoped that in the future they will carry on such a program.

Miss Clark felt that the new Young Teen service has been quite successful and that it is providing much better service for the junior high school group.

There was a lively and quite lengthy question period following Miss Clark's talk, and her gracious answers and explanations clarified many points for her large audience.

ROSE MOORACHIAN

ON THE STUDENT FRONT

Newspapers recently carried the story of the student picketing of the Reading Public Library. About 75 boys, mainly from the senior class, paraded around the building on February 2, in protest against a ban on junior and senior high students studying in the library after 7 p.m., which went into effect on December 7.

*

Girl's Latin junior class (about 200) are assigned a 1500 word paper on a phase of American literature. They have had some instruction on library use.

*

Weymouth High School senior class term paper on subject of individual's choice. Approximately 600 students are involved. 200 source cards are required of each student. Prior library instruction is apparent.

*

Another group from Weymouth High is working on United Nations material. This group made advance arrangements and were accompanied by a teacher familiar with library materials.

*

Revere High has assigned a paper in Problems of Democracy.

*

Beverly High is also with us doing a term paper on a subject of the student's own choosing.

*

Last Saturday six classes of 30 boys each (school unidentified) descended on Bates Hall. Each boy had a different subject but each was a specific aspect of the Elizabethan era: Handwriting, Alchemy, Agriculture, Shipping etc.

BOOKS ADDED TO STAFF LIBRARY - 1960

American Library Association
Basic book collection for junior high schools; 3rd edition, 1960
Basic book collection for elementary grades; 7th edition, 1960
Costs of Public Library Service in 1959, 1960
Let's read together, 1960
Young adult services in the public library, 1960
Studying the community, 1960

Children's books too good to miss (revised edition) Cleveland, Western Reserve University, 1959

Downs, Robert B.
The first freedom. Chicago, ALA, 1960

Doms, Keith and Howard Rovelstad, editors
Guidelines for library planners Chicago, ALA, 1960

Eakin, Mary K., editor
Good books for children. Chicago, ALA, 1960

Eaton, Anne T
Treasure for the taking (revised edition) New York, Viking, 1957

Great Britain Ministry of Education
The structure of the public library service in England and Wales. New York, British Information Center, 1958

Josette, Frank
Your child's reading today (revised edition). New York, Doubleday, 1960

Larrick, Nancy
A parent's guide to children's reading New York, Doubleday, 1958

Loiseaux, Marie
Publicity primer; 4th edition New York, H.W. Wilson, 1959

Lydenberg, Harry M.
The care and repair of books (revised by John E. Alden) New York, Bowker, 1960

Mevissen, Werner
Büchereibau - public library building Essen, Verlag Ernst Heyer, 1958

North Carolina Library Association
North Carolina public library personnel manual. Chapel Hill, N.C. Institute of Government, 1959

Schick, Frank
The paper-bound book in America. New York, Bowker, 1958

Winchell, Constance M., editor
Guide to reference books; 7th edition; Third supplement, 1956-58. Chicago, ALA, 1960

CUPID'S DARTS

Engagements Announced

Joan M. Sughrue, Office HR and CS, to Lawrence M. Savignano of Northeast Airlines. To be married June 10.

Esther S. Chute, Periodical and Newspaper, to Lt. (j.g.) Strafford Morss of the United States Navy. To be married in May.

Harold A. Brackett, Office HR and CS, to Mary M. Cronin who teaches business subjects at Burlington High School. To be married August 12.

Hearts and arrows

appeared in chalk on the bulletin board of the Book Selection room on Valentines day with unusual names: Oedipus loves Electra. The literary influence no doubt!

IN THE PRESS

Jane Manthorne, Readers Adviser (YA), has an article "Massachusetts Authors Mary Stolz" on pages 13-16 of the Winter edition of the BAY STATE LIBRARIAN.

In the same issue is an account of the BPLSA Institute, page 23.

Henry Bowditch Jones, Book Stack Service, and his steam train whistles, was written up in the GLOBE of January 18, page 20.

The cartoon on page 325 of the January 15 LIBRARY JOURNAL will entertain all those who have been dealing with the student problem. It is evidence that they <u>can</u> come still younger!

ANOTHER COMMENT

BRRRS are in the air,
And all the world is cold;
And streets are peopled only
With just the very bold.

I huddle in my corner,
And read of others' deeds;
And every shaking rafter
Sends me to my beads.

Alas, I am no hero,
In any scale weighed;
And seek no other status
In world I never made.

HARRY ANDREWS

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

Since the inception of Soap Box, we have had a medium through which we can freely express our ideas on topics pertinent to our welfare. For the most part we have not been reticent in saying what we think, nor hesitated to point out deficiencies irrespective of where they may have occurred. This opportunity "to let off steam" has had a beneficial effect. At times the comments have made some of us squirm; at times the remedies for deficiencies or mistakes have not been as expedient as we might wish, but just to know there is a place where we can speak out provides an excellent catalysis.

Among the many staff qualities brought to our attention in Soap Box, one has been too long neglected, or at least not highlighted - the generosity of our staff. I wager there could not be found in these United States a group more willing to give of itself. Irrespective of the need - CARE, Community Fund, Christmas Tea, retirement gift, personal illness or misfortune - there is always the query "what can w e do?", and someone ready to spearhead a donation, which within a remarkably short time and with no pressure exerted, more than meets the need. This is a quality of which we all can be justly proud. We may be many things to many people, but it can never be said by anyone that the BPL staff is not one of the most generous groups to be found in any institution, public or private.

EDNA G. PECK

PS - Since writing the above some three weeks ago, I have been the recipient of very tangible evidence of this generosity. To all who made my "black eye" (not acquired through staff generosity) such a happy experience, I can only say "Many, many thanks".

E.G.P.

Dear Editor:

In view of the unhappiness caused by previous storms, I think a vote of thanks should be given the Administration for its timely action on January 20. Between radio and TV announcements and personal notification, everyone learned at an early hour that the Library was closed. The whole procedure was most admirable.

GRATEFUL

ACCIDENT RECORD

Joe O'Neil, Periodical and Newspaper, is out with an injured back received in a three car skidding accident. He was NOT riding the Cannonball express.

Jack Tuley, Fire Control, has stitches in his forehead and other painful face and head injuries. He was pushed into an oncoming street-car by a group of students just out of school, attempting to board the car.

The B. P. L. S. A.

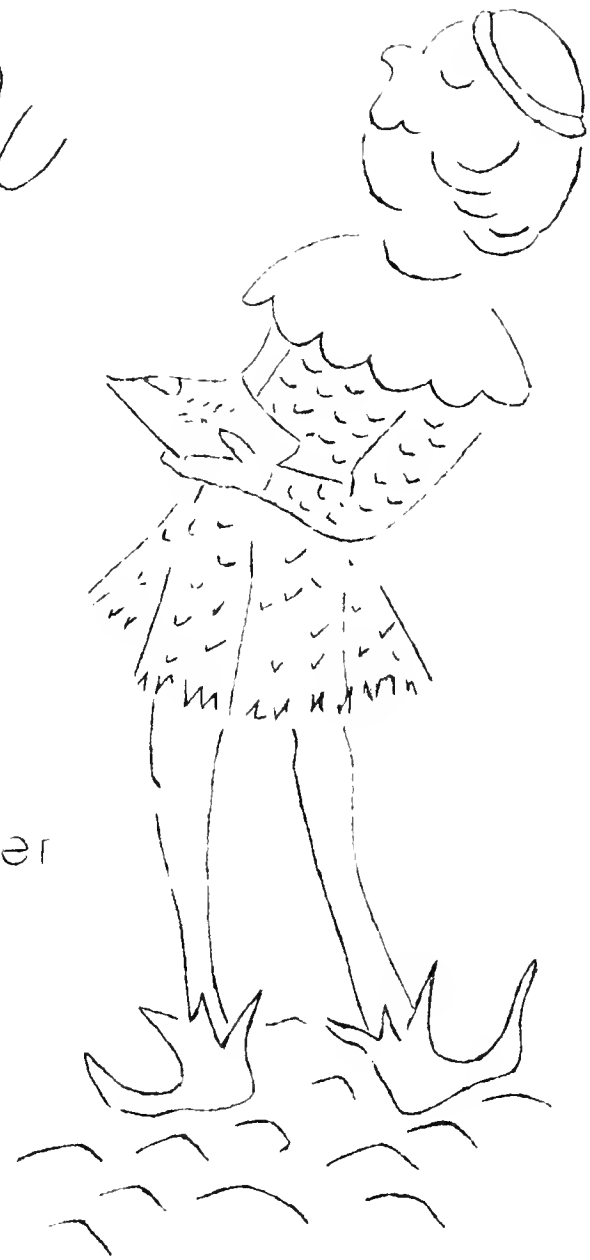
INVITES YOU

To Attend

the

HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE

ERWIN D. CANHAM speaker



Fri. Mar. 3rd 1961
at 8pm
Lecture Hall

Refreshments

Come and Bring a Friend

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 3 March 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

We are pleased, in reading the Restatement of Service to Young Adults, dated February 16, to see that the policy for use of the facilities of the Library by Young Adults has been broadened to include more advanced materials when the needs or interests of the individual require it.

In these days of rapidly changing educational needs, trends are growing toward encouraging the student to proceed at his own pace, rather than by limitations of age or class. Since books are the basis of study, it is well for the library to be aware of these trends, and of the needs of the student, to encourage his advancement at his own speed in his own areas.

The gifted child, in particular, has been hampered in the past by restrictions imposed by the gearing of classes in many schools to the pace of the slower children, and by library practices in permitting use of materials only on a lower level than he often is capable of handling. The new plan will aid the gifted, the inquiring reader, and yet will not hinder in any way, the slower child, or make him feel "left behind".

It is important to the personal development of the student, and to his acquisition of a good future "reading climate" that the right materials be available at the time his stage of growth readies him to understand their content. Is it not the role of the library to bring student and materials together as needed?

Lillian Batchelor has written a challenging article in the January 15 LIBRARY JOURNAL - "Setting a Reading Climate for the Gifted" in which she shows their needs, and discusses what can be done for them. She urges that free rein should be given a child's compulsion to read, that his habit of reading for intellectual delight be encouraged, that he be urged to read for the values he can derive for himself. She advises that his current interests, which are apt to be many and varied, be capitalized upon to give him further development and states that the authoritarian approach must be avoided at all costs lest creativity be stifled and the habit of independent thinking be discouraged. And she emphasizes that our attitude must be permissive and understanding if our reading guidance is to amount to anything.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

This has been a busy month. We have been in process of organizing committees and should have them completed and ready for publication in the next issue of the QUESTION MARK.

We were pleased to see so many of you at the Hartzell Memorial Lecture. To those of you who missed it, we can only say we are sorry you could not be there to hear our distinguished speaker. Mr. Canham's talk on the problems and trends of the great metropolitan areas was thought provoking, and we might well consider the effects on the library service of tomorrow.

March 3 was also the date of the latest "open meeting" of the Library Trustees. The Staff Association President attended. It was an interesting meeting at which was discussed various contracts, the giving of an increment to those 11 years in a grade (not having reached their maximum), as well as discussion on methods of attracting new staff members to the Boston Public Library.

This discussion was carried over to the Executive Board meeting of the 10th of March, and will be the subject of several special meetings of your Executive Board in the weeks ahead.

Mr. Rabb, president of the Library Board of Trustees, was most laudatory and appreciative of the work being done in the various departments. The Chiefs of each Division were commended for their work and the work of their departments. We are pleased to close the column on such a happy note.

RUTH M. HAYES

WOMAN OF THE WEEK

The Boston TRAVELER on March 7, named our Muriel Javelin as Woman of the Week, giving interesting bits of her career at the BPL. But there was also mentioned something new - to the majority of our staff - the fact that Mrs. Javelin this week received one of the Annual Awards of Merit from the New England Council of Optometrists, at their 39th post graduate educational congress, for her work "in furthering the cause of books for people with reading disabilities."

WHY DON'T WE...?

Send mimeographed elementary ground rules to every school within a 30 mile radius of Boston, which is known to be using the Library regularly? A few simple rules would make seats and materials more readily available on busy days. These ground rules should include requests that books and materials be returned to open shelves, or the desk from which they were obtained as soon as one has finished with them; that seats not be held in two or three different departments by one person at the same time (this is common practice now and accounts for serious seat shortages on busy days) - rather, that personal belongings should be taken with the student as he goes from one department to another; that seats should not be held in any department while the student goes out to lunch, or to another room for more than five minutes; that a student use only one periodical index volume, or recent bound volume of a periodical or one volume of an encyclopedia or set of books at a time to avoid tying up several volumes needed by others, etc.

*

Offer comments to be published in the QUESTION MARK on those items which appear in this column? Comments would show evidence of interest and/or need, and might lead to action.

*

Devise a system of limiting the number of items to be borrowed on a temporary non-resident library card? Such a system should serve to prevent some of the abuses of this privilege!

*

Make time and personnel available to dust the books and shelves in Bates Hall and other public areas? Dirty books and shelves are not the best advertisement for our wares!

WAS DARWIN RIGHT?

Recently, a boy came to Center Desk asking for the Geology Department. Seems he wanted to look up his ancestry. Trying to reach behind William the Conqueror or Charlemagne to trace his descent from the paleolithic fossil familes no doubt.

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs Marcia J. Battaglia, Fine Arts
Paul D. Cronin, Memorial
James E. Devin, Kirstein
Edward J. Diffley, Cataloging and Classification, HR and CS
Brenda H. Hemingway, Uphams Corner
Mrs. Della M. Jones, South End
J. Edward Keefe III, Central Charging Records
Clara Koretsky, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS

Transferred

James M. McNiff, Shipping to Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Martin J. Qualters, Book Stack Service to Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Mrs Christine J. Umano, North End to Science and Technology
Veronica Yotts, Open Shelf to Personnel, temporarily

Terminated

Robert Allen, Kirstein

Resigned

Mrs Elaine A. Comegys, Business Office, to return to Baltimore
Gale M. Helft, South Boston, illness at home
Martin Segal, Music, to return to school
Anne V. Webb, Mattapan, to remain at home

WHO'S NEW?

Donald Chickering, Book Stack Service, is studying Education at Northeastern and is a member of the Massachusetts chapter of the National Teachers' Association. Don may combine a career teaching History and Social Science with coaching athletics, but he has some other possibilities up his sleeve! Don is from North Quincy and graduated from North Quincy High where he played basketball and three years of varsity baseball.

*

Robert A. Fantasa has come to Book Stack Service after a previous co-op term as an orderly in the Maternity Ward of St. Margaret's Hospital! Bob is a Modern Language major at Northeastern and he would like to go into teaching or government work. His non-academic interests include sports - particularly baseball.

Patricia J. Fradsham, Cataloging (R & RS) is not new to library work for she has worked at the Stoneham Public Library. Pat comes from Medford and is a sophomore at Northeastern. She is majoring in English and considering teaching as a career.

*

Government Documents' John A. Gilmore has completed two years at the University of Maine and is now taking three courses at B.U.'s night school, working towards a degree in public relations. John lives in Somerville and prepared for college at Tilton. His interests definitely include sports - especially skiing.

*

Thomas J. Zazulak, Central Charging Records, lives in South Boston and is a Sophomore at Northeastern. Tom is studying Electrical Engineering. He is also a stamp collector and a member of the Boston Polish Philatelical Society.

*

Margaret Glynn is working in Cataloging and Classification (R & RS) as a Pre-Professional while she is studying at Simmons. She graduated from Lawrence College as an American Literature major in 1959 and has worked in the Columbia University Library and for Dr. White at the Harvard Medical School Library, compiling bibliographies for his papers. Margaret lives in Boston and is finding time to take some extension courses along with her course in reference work.

*

Branch Issue's Thomas J. Henshon is an Economics major at Northeastern. His major interest just now is in golf, and he is hoping to become a pro. He started out caddying around Boston, has worked in Florida, and now tries to play as much of the year as possible. Tom lives in Boston and in addition to his job at the BPL he is working at night at the Harvard Faculty Club.

*

After 8 months in Alaska where he completed his Army duty as a security guard at a guided missile emplacement, Barry D. Latta has come to Book Stack Service. He has not entirely renounced a military frame of mind as his hobbies include collecting weapons. Among others he owns an old, never finished Japanese ceremonial sword. Barry is hoping to study electrical engineering.

Before coming to our Music Department, Peter T. Lewis had a teaching fellowship in Music at Brandeis. He is still composing and having some of his works performed at Brandeis. Peter has studied at Westminster Choir College and the University of California, where he earned both a B.A. and an M.A. in Music. He and his wife live in Waltham.

*

Joan R. Merchant, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS), comes from Cambridge and is a Middler at Northeastern. She is majoring in English and her main interests include literature and writing. She is Corresponding Secretary of her sorority and so, in a lighter vein, must put her writing to work on Mixer invitations!

*

Robert M. Murphy is doing his first co-op in Book Stack Service. He comes from Dorchester and went to Boston Technical High before entering Northeastern where he is studying Electrical Engineering. Bob is also interested in sports and has played basketball for Northeastern.

*

Janice L. Purington, Personnel, graduated from Holliston High and worked as a Dental Receptionist before entering Northeastern, where she is an English Journalism major. In a previous co-op term, she worked for the Herald-Traveler, and when she leaves Northeastern, she hopes to write, perhaps by working on a magazine. Janice's interests also include Modern Dance.

*

After a varied list of co-op jobs, which includes working as a long shoreman, Daniel C. Sears Jr. has come to Book Purchasing. He has an ILA card, and when he is not exercising his boxer, Mark, he spends some spare time longshoring. Dan is majoring in Education at Northeastern and is a member of the football team. He plans to teach, perhaps Business Education, and coach.

*

Open Shelf's Paul Toomey is an English Journalism major in his fourth year at Northeastern. Paul is headed towards publishing or newspaper work and his activities at Northeastern certainly point that way. He writes for the Northeastern News and is just now a copy editor. He is also a member of the Husky Hi-Liters, the staff of a closed radio station which broadcasts entertainment and information about Northeastern doings.

*

James L. White, Book Stack Service, lives in Dorchester and graduated from Dom Bosco, where he played football and basketball. Jim has studied drafting, but his main interest just now is in swimming. He spent a summer as a life guard on Nantucket beach and is a swimming instructor at the Quincy YMCA. Jim would like to work with his interest in athletics, perhaps as a coach.

*

Adrienne de Vergie has joined the staff at Charlestown to work with Adults and Young Adults. A graduate of Boston University with a major in Romance Languages, Adrienne also studied at Aix-en-Provence, France. Justly proud of being both Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Sigma Iota, she is now continuing studies at Simmons College.

*

Pittsfield is the home town of Sandra M. Plank who recently increased the staff of Codman Square. Sandra is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and a former teacher. She says she chose Boston as a place to work because she yearned for the hustle of a big city but she loves New England, too.

*

Grandmothers of the BPL can now add another to their ranks and be prepared to compare pictures, sayings and stories. Mrs. Frieda Beitchman, Brighton, will match her granddaughter with the best. Formerly with the New York Public Library, and a native of that city, Mrs. Beitchman has put aside her crocheting to return to the work she likes best. We're glad she did!

BRANCH ISSUE NOTE

Mrs. Claire O'Toole has returned home after a two week sojourn in the hospital and she is improving every day in every way. She wishes to thank all her friends who sent cards and other tokens while she was too weak to defend herself. See you in May, Claire?

REMEMBER
CARE
during
Holy Week
and
Passover!

MLA MIDWINTER INSTITUTE

Lawrence E. Wikander presided at the business meeting of MLA at the Sheraton Plaza, on Thursday February 16. The remainder of the day was devoted to an institute on state aid problems with the theme "State Aid and You".

Orientation and Panel Discussion

Mrs. Muriel Javelin opened the morning session of the conference, commenting that this marked the first time that librarians and library trustees had joined in co-sponsoring an MLA conference. Librarians from small, medium and large libraries, library trustees and lawyers were represented on the panel, including our own John M. Carroll. The panelists concerned themselves largely with the phraseology of the state aid law, the interpretation of the law as it now stands, and with the effect of the law on state grants to libraries.

In the course of the discussion the panelists pointed out that the prime purpose of the law is to promote and improve library service in the Commonwealth. Cities and towns to be eligible for grants must apply annually and must meet the standards set up by the Board of Library Commissioners. The standards are not part of the law itself. They are subject to change at the discretion of the Board. At present the standards are high, as the Board is anxious to upgrade library service. There are no strings attached to the grants and libraries are not bound to honor the library cards of other communities. They are also free to charge non-residents a fee.

Funds for library aid are derived from state income taxes. This money has always been allocated to the cities and towns, and in some instances, there will be no additional revenue coming into a community.

The panelists sounded a disturbing note when they indicated that the grants were given to the municipalities and not to the libraries directly. There is no provision in the law to guarantee that the money apportioned for library aid will be used for such by the cities and towns. Therefore it will be up to librarians to convince local authorities of the library's importance in the community as an adjunct to the schools in the education of the children, and, in many cases, as the sole educational medium for adults.

MARIE R. KENNEDY

Luncheon Meeting

Following the luncheon, special recognition was given to Sumner Z. Kaplan, godfather of the Massachusetts state aid to libraries bill. Representative Kaplan said that the intent of the bill was to give additional financial aid to libraries. Any failure to meet this goal will be corrected by future legislation.

Mrs. Raymond Young, President, American Library Trustees Association, spoke on "State Aid: Its Impact on Your Library, Your Public, and You." Mrs. Young views state aid to libraries as a massive dose of vitamins to supplement nutrition. It does not replace the meat and potatoes of local tax support.

The small library has a severe struggle to keep going for lack of adequate funds. The child or the adult in a community of 500 is entitled to the same materials as one living in a community of 500,000. The law signed on November 3, 1960 shows that Massachusetts recognizes its responsibility to give adequate library service.

At present four communities in Massachusetts lack a library. Sixty-three percent of the population in cities receive sub-standard library service. The state standards are not excessive or punitive. Many cities and towns already meet six of the standards. The challenge is to meet all of them.

State aid does not mean the loss of local control or local identity. Communities of under 25,000 population will benefit most from being part of a regional system. They will receive books and services from the regional libraries, in addition to sharing in regional planning as members of the advisory commission. The small public library will have a feast of previously unobtainable services.

The law is perfectly balanced between grants-in-aid and the organization of regional libraries. The large library, already furnishing reference and research services, will also benefit. State aid will help to meet rising costs so that these services may be continued. This existing force should be strengthened, not weakened.

Cooperation is the key word in the state aid to libraries program. Smaller lib-

raries benefit by services from large regional library centers. The large regional libraries benefit by the financial aid received.

A brief question and answer period concluded this part of the program.

MILDRED C. O'CONNOR

Group Discussion

The afternoon Group Discussions gave the first real opportunity to ask questions. Resource People for Area Four, Metropolitan Boston, were Elizabeth Butcher, Librarian of the Brookline Public Library, and Mrs. V. Genevieve Galick, Director of the Division of Library Extension.

The topic that seemed to be on the minds of most people was Item Six of Section 19B of the State Aid law which reads "...lend books to other libraries in the commonwealth and extend privileges to the holders of cards issued by other public libraries in the commonwealth on a reciprocal basis." Many librarians and trustees interpreted this to mean that those libraries accepting state aid must extend borrowing privileges to all residents of Massachusetts.

After many questions from the floor and a great deal of explanation by Mrs. Galick, the issue was clarified.

Many people were confused because they did not realize that the State Aid law, Chapter 760, Acts of 1960, provides for two separate types of state aid. The first, provided for in Section 19A of the law, gives each public library certified by the Board of Library Commissioners a sum of money based on the population of the town. This money is paid to the municipal treasury, not directly to the library. (There is nothing in the law to compel a municipality to spend this money for the library in addition to appropriations already made. This point, made first at the morning session, was brought up again.) Libraries qualifying for and receiving state aid money under Section 19A are not required to extend borrowing privileges to residents outside their own towns.

Section 19B, Item Six which was causing apprehension on the part of so many librarians and trustees applies only to the second part of the State Aid law. Section 19C of the law provides for the establishment of five regional library systems throughout the state. Only if a library elects to join a regional program will it be required to extend borrowing privileges outside its own community. This second plan setting up regional library service has not yet been implemented. In any case, no library receiving state aid under Section 19A is obligated in any way to join a regional library system.

Most of the discussion period was needed to straighten out these points. Mrs. Galick remarked that perhaps one of the most important outcomes of this meeting was her realization that the law was not as clear as had been supposed, to librarians and trustees.

Certainly those of us who attended this session had many doubtful points clarified by the discussion.

ROSE MOORACHIAN

"State Aid: Its Responsibilities, Its Problems, Its Rewards"

..Was the topic of the talk by Mrs. Lillian C. Van Mater, Director, Nassau Library System, Hempstead, New York.

Experience in New York has shown that the change in concept of adequate public library service and the increased educational demands require larger units of library service to extend and improve the over-all quality of the service.

Following state aid legislation in 1950 and a revised law in 1958, three types of systems were set up in New York: - the consolidated, the federated and the cooperative, to allow for differences in existing patterns.

The membership in a system is completely voluntary, by vote of the local library board.

In Nassau, the largest County with 1,300,000 population, the cooperative system is financed wholly by state aid money. In October 1959 a director was hired and the project was under way with 32 full-time members of the headquarters staff. 38 out of the 46 libraries in the County belong to the system.

The Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative System are elected in a democratic fashion that insures representation from all units and from all geographic sections.

The state aid has been applied according to the 1950 census and with the rapid growth of the community it is expected

the budget will be almost doubled next year on the basis of the 1960 census.

The cooperative services include reference, inter-library loan, audio-visual aids, consultant services, and in September of this year, central processing of all materials will be started.

The five largest libraries in the system are each designated as a subject center specializing in art, business, etc., based on their holdings and geographical location. The headquarters office and center house the reference collection. The system has a total of 100,000 volumes. Teletype and telephone are used in sending needed reference material and frequent deliveries insure fast service. The State Library at Albany is an additional source drawn upon for material not in the system's collection.

Mrs. Van Mater summed up the responsibilities of the larger unit as follows:

At the local level

1. To see that local support is not reduced
2. Resources available for interlibrary loan
3. Cooperate with system in all services

At the regional level

1. Keep lines of communication open for good public relations
2. Seek cooperation and advise in forming and operating plans and in evaluating services and projected law
3. Within the law seek to give priority to services placed first by local libraries

The problems were summed up as follows:

1. Fear of loss of autonomy and political domination
2. Resentment to change especially in standardizing procedures
3. Desire to transfer local responsibility to headquarters staff

The rewards, which Mrs. Van Mater felt far outweighted the problems are:

1. Expansion and improvement of total services
2. Savings on the tax dollar
3. Released staff time for individual attention to public
4. Available consultant services

The documentary film shown at the conclusion of the talk was produced in the belief that it is the most effective public relations tool, to explain the workings and benefits of state aid as experienced in Nassau County.

PAULINE A. WALKER

HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE

At the eighth Hartzell Memorial Lecture, on March 3, Erwin D. Canham directed our attention to the future of libraries in the setting of urban society, and, to the future of cities themselves.

Our speaker's first prediction is one that is of great concern to the library world— that the relation between individual man and the printed word will change more in the next quarter-century than it has in the last millenium. But, at least for the present, the book is not losing the race with electronics; in fact, Mr. Canham asserts, while television and other visual devices have provided, for some, a more passive substitute for reading, on the whole, electronic media have stimulated interest in the printed word and in knowledge in general.

The printed word is not the only concern of the library, however. As our society grows increasingly complex, and the data of civilization proliferates at a fantastic rate, the library must preserve and make available the records of man's expanding knowledge. It is significant that within a few hundred yards from the BPL there is now an organization devoted to the coding and programming of data. If libraries are to keep pace with the growth of knowledge and materials, we must take advantage of new techniques for the mechanical storage and retrieval of information. Mr. Canham forsees the student or layman pressing buttons on a keyboard and seeing information produced instantaneously on a reading platform; the programming of this material is the responsibility of the librarian.

The increasing complexity of society creates problems not only for the library, but for the whole framework of our cities. The US has developed a predominantly urban society; to such an extent, indeed, that for every 100 persons added to the population, during the next decade, 97 will be added to our urban areas. In the next few years the American economy, and particularly the cities, will have to generate 25,000 new jobs every week. By 1975: there will be 50 million more people in American cities, 20 million added to the commuter rush, and hundreds of thousands more vehicles jockeying for positions on the highways. Also, by 1975, a vast network of freeways will have consolidated the East coast into one megalopolis of

40 million people, stretching from north of Boston to Washington-Baltimore.

To meet this inevitable problem, however, we are engaging in improvisation, when fundamental change is required; we are deceived by the image of progress presented by the shining new buildings and magnificent highways. As soon as the highways are completed they are inadequate - by the time Boston's "inner belt" is finished, it would need 16 lanes to carry the traffic smoothly. Moreover, expressway planning has ignored the effects on the related problem of rapid transit commuter transportation. If more and more freeways finally smother the remaining rapid transit system, no less than 40% of downtown Boston would have to be converted into multi-level parking lots to compensate for its loss. (Ironically enough, $1 invested in our rapid transit system does the work of $17 invested in the highway). Not only are the measures so far enacted proving inadequate, but they have not been developed within the complex of the city, nor related to the lives of the people.

Expansion is necessary, certainly, but it must be accompanied by plans for slum clearance, housing, better schools, improved commuter transportation, reduction of densities, recreation facilities, and eventually the breakup of the central city into neighborhoods of manageable size. Cities and suburbs both face the same problems, as the latter will soon appreciate, when the effects of uneven development and insufficient tax bases are fully realized.

Another problem is the level at which urban and suburban planning should evolve - 16,000 separate, local units of government can never effectively carry out such far-reaching schemes; moreover, attempting to pay for regeneration with purely local funds, drawn almost exclusively from that already overburdened source - the real-estate tax, is self-defeating. Yet, reliance on the Federal government is not the answer either,-in some areas, Massachusetts would send twice as much revenue to Washington as it would receive back; also, federal financing entails federal control.

New forms of government and new sources of revenue are needed. Regional, federated units of government can solve the metropolitan problems more economically, progressively, and honestly; there must be co-operation between the government of the city, the state legislature, and the leadership of the economic community. Incentive forms of taxation will provide more revenue in the long run: excise, sale, use, occupation, and various types of income taxes must be considered; and especially, private enterprise must, and will if incentive is not crushed, do most to revitalize our urban centers. Finally, the people themselves must realize that political decisions will determine the fate of our cities and our nation. Strong public interest in the political profession and in the political process is essential to the solution of our urban problems. Today, when our whole Western way of life is challenged, when the world is looking to the US to see whether people really can learn to live together, there is no more appropriate place to start showing what we can do than right in our own cities.

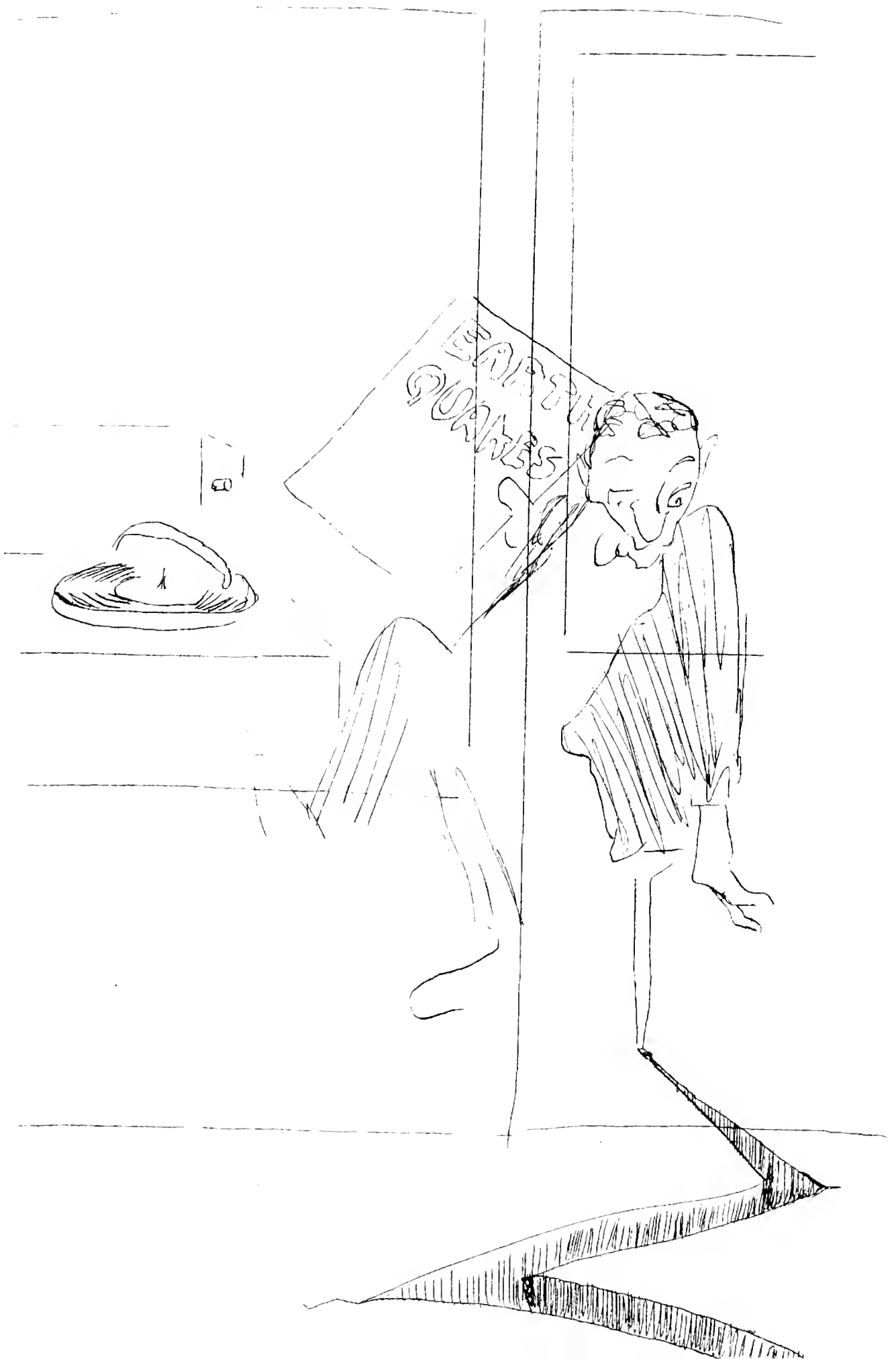
ARTHUR V. CURLEY

Why a Hartzell Lecture?

So many of our new-comers have asked "For whom is the Hartzell lecture a memorial?" that we feel an explanation is necessary. Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell was our much-loved Supervisor of Training from 1927 to 1946. When she died in 1950, members of the staff who had been in her classes, with other friends and associates, made contributions to be used for a memorial in her name. This lecture series was decided upon as a tribute to her character, aims, and sense of values. Her colleague, Alice M. Jordan, wrote of her, "It would be difficult to measure Bertha Hartzell's influence upon the library service." We hope through these lectures to maintain her influence in a small way.

APPOINTMENT

Leonard J. Macmillan, Book Purchasing, has been appointed Vice-chairman (and Chairman Elect) of the national Business and Finance Division of the Special Libraries Association. 578 members comprise this Division, making it one of the largest in the Association. He will edit the Division bulletin during the 1961-62 season.



CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK

The Forum and Fair observed annually, in Boston, in honor of Catholic Book Week, was held at New England Mutual Hall, Saturday afternoon, February 25.

The program, sponsored jointly by the League of Catholic Women and the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association, had been arrangedby the local Catholic Book Week Director, Martha C. Engler, South Boston.

Authors Joseph F. Dineen, Sara Weeks, Elizabeth Yates, and the Rev. Jude Mead, C.P. each discussed several of his or her own books.

Rev. John J. Mowatt, Administrator, Our Lady of Kazan Russian Greek Catholic Church, South Boston, reviewed in a most timely manner SAINTS OF RUSSIA by Constantin de Grunwald. Father Mowatt, a recognized authority on the religious heritage of Russia, pointed up the fact that the spiritual strength of Russian Christianity is not dead and is a source of solace to the people in their present difficulties.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Timothy F. O'Leary, Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Boston, presented prizes to the winners of the Catholic Book Week Essay contest for parochial school children, sponsored by the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association.

BPL staff members, prominent in the execution of a very successful program, were: William T. Casey, Connolly; Diane Farrell, Codman Square; Patricia Feeney, Audio-Visual; Harry Fletcher, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS; James Ford, Education; Mrs. Anne Kearney, Lower Mills; Mary Alice Rea, Book Purchasing; Richard Sullivan, Book Purchasing; Mrs. Helen O'Leary, Faneuil; retired staff members: Mrs. Gertrude Bergen and Anna Manning; as well as former BPL staff members: Alice Marie Buckley, Paul Moynihan and Jeannette Pepin.

MARTHA C. ENGLER

BUCKMANN RETIREMENT

On March 1, Anna M. Buckmann, Central Charging Records, worked her last day before retiring after 25 years of service. Anna and her mother soon will be leaving Boston for Sacramento, California, where they will make their home. They vacationed there last summer and apparently enjoyed it even more than they told us.

On February 28, a farewell luncheon was held in her honor at the Red Coach Grille. Over sixty of her friends were in attendance. Miss Buckmann's appearance was complemented by a corsage of yellow tea-roses. Anna's mother won the attention and praise of all by looking and acting so youthful.

John M. Carroll expressed our mixed feelings: confident that Anna and her mother would be happy in their soon-to-be-adopted city, but realizing that Anna's absence - both official and personal - would be felt throughout the library.

Charles J. Gillis presented Anna with a gift on behalf of her friends - a transistor radio and an amount of green, cash-type money. The one, Mr. Gillis explained, was for the two to hear all the news - all the good news - from Boston, the other was to help them bolster their courage on the cross-country flight (tourist flights do not get free cocktails).

The luncheon ended with an obviously sincere thank you and farewell from Miss and Mrs. Buckmann. But Mr. Carroll couldn't let Anna just walk away. He wanted to make sure he'd be remembered. He tried twice - the first one went wild and landed on her nose, the second made it to her cheek.

HELEN G. SCOLLINS and FRANCIS X. COX

CHINESE DOLL EXHIBIT

To continue the interest aroused by the Chinese New Year celebration in February, South End is exhibiting a selection of Chinese dolls from the collection of the Misses Grace and Marie Turner. The exhibit will continue through March.

There is a gay family group out for an airing, and they come upon what was a common scene in old China: a barber whose shop is the wide outdoors! His customer is a little boy whose head has just been shaved while little sister looked on. No one else heeds them; the Buddhist woman lumbers by, and the Taoist priest continues his way, scowling over some problem that confronts him. The barber seems to be reluctant to release the boy from the bench. He stands poised over the boy, razor in hand; his stand with basin, towels, scissors, brush, and mirror are beside him. Perhaps the boy will get the hot towel treatment.

An itinerant tea and confectionery vendor comes into view. Over his shoulder is a long bamboo pole from which hang the cases in which he carries the wares he hawks through the streets. Does he scent customers among the family and barber groups? (Do the street barber and the wandering tea vendor still make their way through Chinese streets, or do they represent a way of life that is past?)

To complete the exhibit there are three larger dolls. One is a baby resplendant in silken cape with a high collar to ward off the drafts, and a cap topped with his pigtail. The other is a beautifully clad mother whose chubby baby rides comfortably on mother's back, a fine place to view the town.

We are most grateful to the Turner sisters for their generosity in lending us their dolls to exhibit now, as well as for many years in the past.

ANNE M CONNELLY

WITH THE STUDENTS

English High 11th grade 70 students. Must all read Irving's Devil and Tom Walker and Hawthorne's David Swann. There are not sufficient copies in the library.

*

Meadowbrook School, Newton. 9th grade Assignment: to compare a particular Asiatic or Latin American country with the US, with respect to one of the following aspects: transportation, communications, language and culture, medicine, machine progress, postal service. Each student must obtain a minimum of 6 pamphlets and 4 books.

*

Boston Latin 8th grade. 120 students must obtain material on the techniques of poetry.

*

Beverly High 380 seniors doing term paper on various authors

*

State College, Boston Sophomore class of 60 students. Term paper is a book review of HERE IS YOUR WAR.

*

Boston University, College of Basic Studies. English and humanities course. More than 100 assigned to write a critical analysis of various authors

Catherine Labouré School of Nursing Freshmen, 50-60 in class. Paper on Youth abroad in different countries.

*

Girls Latin Class of 29 students assigned term paper in 19th and 20th century literature

*

Needham High Whole school has project but length of paper varies according to the class. Most of the juniors and seniors will come to the BPL. 350 in senior class. Subject: American or English novelist must be selected, and the paper is an analysis of his novels

*

Reading Memorial High Senior and Junior class, advanced placement history class of 10 pupils. They are doing a 15 page history paper

*

St. Sebastian Senior class. Science project for science fair

*

Boston Latin 9th grade. Each student must locate an article on goats in the 1937-1939 AGRICULTURAL INDEX. No other year will do. Apparently the teacher found an article that year and has not visited the library since then.

*

Sacred Heart High, Newton 37 Juniors. History term paper

*

On the last two Saturdays there has been almost no seating capacity at all by afternoon. And with students wanting the same materials at the same time, the library is unable to care for the needs of the numbers arriving.

MUSIC HATH CHARMS

A young lady went to the recordings desk in Audio-visual recently to ask if they had any Italian records. The assistant struggled to pin her down - was it music by Italians or in Italian style? Did she wish vocal or instrumental? Concertos, operas, or what? After some discussion, the facts emerged. The lady had been given a pizza pie and wanted records to play while eating it.

Soap Box

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Soap Box:

WHEN are the answers to suggestions dropped into the Staff Suggestion Box to be given to the signees? We have heard of no answers being received as yet, though the box was started several months ago. And how are the answers to the anonymous suggestions to reach the staff?

CURIOUS

Dear Soap Box:

Suggestions submitted by the public in the Suggestion Boxes are usually replied to within days. Surely it should not be months before signed suggestions submitted to the Staff Suggestion Box are at least acknowledged.

NOT INTERESTED IN WAITING

Dear Editor,

In Recruiting and Retention the emphasis is far too often on Recruiting. When an employee is lost through early retirement or for other employment, a large investment is lost. The period of training to bring this person to full productive capacity, the time spent by other employees in helping to train this person, the reduced efficiency of a group when a trained member is lost, all of these factors and others represent a large cash investment loss when we lose a trained employee we might have retained. Emphasis on Recruiting at the expense of Retention is uneconomic even when your trained employee does not leave, since loss of morale may cause lack of desire to do a superior job. Feet dragging has a way of being contagious.

The "bonus baby" rookie in baseball is resented by the veteran player who feels he is being underpaid to help pay the rookie's bonus and salary. Human nature doesn't change. Everyone wants fair treatment and resents unfair treatment.

Keep everyone on the team happy. Give Retention its proper importance in a Recruiting and Retention Program. Reward the skilled veteran in at least the same proportion as the neophyte. You are sure of what your veteran worker can do. Your newcomer may prove to be a bust, and is more likely to jump to another library. There is no "reserve" clause in library work.

WILLING TO PLAY BALL

THE QUESTION MARK

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Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

With the approval of the budget last week, the long-waited return of the Central Library to its former hours and the restoration of several other services next week, staff morale should rise a notch or two - in realization that the Library has finally been permitted to turn once more in the direction of the more adequate services due the patrons of a library of our size and reputation. We hope the flow of badly needed materials will promptly follow!

The changes are not viewed with unalloyed delight by the staff however. Those two "closed" mornings have proved invaluable in catching up with or keeping abreast of routine tasks, especially in those open departments lacking work room space. Because of this, we are loathe to see them disappear.

Also, while the re-opening gives further meaning and impetus to National Library Week locally, and ends the full year of reduced service - it also happens to fall during school vacation week - one of the busiest of the year. Since some departments have insufficient staffing as yet, to cope with the increased hours, the unexpected resumption of service places a further strain on a tired staff, and in some instances cannot fail to result in poor service during a period of especially heavy use.

But we are now on our way to better goals!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Committees are pretty well organized and most of the Committees and their members will be listed elsewhere in this QUESTION-MARK. Perhaps you are not serving on a committee but you can support your organization by paying your dues promptly and by attending meetings. The next business meeting will be held in May. You will be notified of the exact date - Plan to be there.

The Executive Board has had several meetings with Ervin Gaines to discuss ways and means of attracting new staff members to the Boston Public Library.

As we approach National Library Week 1961, it is pleasant to know that the passing of the budget makes it possible to resume services which the rigors of an austerity program had curtailed. It will be good to be back on normal schedules.

RUTH M. HAYES

FOR 1961
JOIN
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION
NOW

For application form, contact your Staff Representative
or
Send yearly dues of $.50 to David Sheehan (General Reference), Treasurer BPLSA

Upon becoming a member, you may request a Discount Card from the Personnel Office.

For further information, please contact your Staff Representative - or - Mrs. Eleänora N. Chaplik (Codman Square) Chairman, Membership and Hospitality Committee.

CHANGE OF DATE

The date of the spring meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association has been changed to Thursday and Friday, June 8 and 9. The place is the same as originally announced, the Hotel Belmont in West Harwich.

MURIEL C. JAVELIN
Vice President
Massachusetts Library Association

ETCHING BY HEINTZELMAN

A recent exhibition at the Symphony Hall Gallery consisted of etchings by Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, Emeritus, at the BPL. In addition to his more familiar works, the exhibit included recent portraits of Ben Gurion, Albert Schweitzer, and Charles Munch.

WHY DON'T WE ...?

Experiment with using a few grocery-type light two-wheeled carts so that more than a dozen books can be handled per trip into the stacks?

*

Open the Staff Library on Saturday? Staff library school students, and often other members of the staff are blocked during lunch hours from completing assignments or surveys.

*

Provide a box at Center Desk to hold the "crossed" call-slips as they come back from the indicator, until the boy can deliver them to the seats?

NON FICTION

There was the female patron putting in call-slips at Center Desk recently, who told the staff she would go down to the Coffee Shop for a cup of coffee while she was waiting for delivery of her books.

When told that the Coffee Shop was open only to staff, she replied promptly "Oh no it isn't, I go there all the time!"

CONGRATULATIONS

To proud grandad Lord! Also to Mr. and Mrs. John Van Dusen (mother is Mary Lord)! Our latest recruit for future library service was born March 24th. We advise our Director to start training her young, in the way she should go, and to enter young Gretchen in some library school right away.

CLOSED MORNING

Challenged in the BPL corridors on a closed morning recently, two girls admitted they had come down from Maine and were just seeing the sights in the library.

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs. Hazel A. McDonald, Book Preparation
James E. MacDonald, Central Charging Records
Naomi D. Manowitz, Jamaica Plain
Edward T. O'Donnell, South Boston
Mrs. Helen A. Rosenberg, Bookmobiles

New Employees (Northeastern Cooperative Students)

Mark Alpert, Central Charging Records (formerly part-time, Fine Arts)
Errol Baker, Central Book Stock, Branch Issue
Gerald Blonder, Open Shelf
Gail Burns, Kirstein
Anne Cabral, Book Preparation
Carol Darish, Cataloging and Classificatio (R and RS)
Emily Fagerberg, Business Office
Ernest Gam, Book Stack Service (re-entry)
Frances Hale, Personnel,(re-entry)
Edward Howell, Book Purchasing
Barbara LaFlamme, Fine Arts
Delores E. Link, Cataloging and Classification, (R and RS) (re-entry)
Arthur MacDonald, Book Stack Service
Agnes McLaughlin, Division Office, (R & RS)
Elaine Miller, Bookmobiles
Theresa Ouellet, Book Purchasing (re-entry)
Peter Ranney, Book Stack Service (re-entry)
Martin F. Shore, Records, Files, Statistics
Marcia Soolman, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS)
Milton Taylor, Book Stack Service
Anthony Tieuli, Book Purchasing (re-entry)
Diane Thompson, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS) (re-entry)
John Walsh, Book Stack Service (re-entry)
Janice Wright, Book Purchasing

Transferred

Mrs. Winifred C. Frank, Jamaica Plain to Division Office,HR &CS
Joan Sughrue, Division Office, HR & CS to Division Office, R & RS

Terminated - Northeaster Cooperative Students

M. David Allard, Bookmobiles
Anthony Bajdek, Book Stack Service
Donald E. Chickering, Book Stack Service
Lawrence C. Barrett, Book Purchasing
Stephen Davis, Science and Technology
Robert A. Fantasa, Book Stack Service
Patricia Fradsham, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Mrs. Brenda S. Franklin, Book Purchasing
Thomas J. Henshon, Branch Issue
Neil J. Kelly, Records, Files, Statistics
Clara Koretsky, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Stephen Kossover, Book Stack Service
Elizabeth I. McLucas, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS
Joan R. Merchant, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS
Robert M. Murphy, Book Stack Service
Janice L. Purington, Business Office
Daniel C. Sears Jr, Book Purchasing
Allen J. Shapiro, Book Purchasing
Paul Toomey, Open Shelf
Thomas J. Zazulak, Central Charging Records

Resigned

Esther S. Chute, Periodical and Newspaper, to be married
James E. Devin, Jr, Kirstein, to obtain employment elsewhere
Margaret Glynn, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS, to move to West Coast
Mrs. Judith N. Hurd, Uphams Corner, to remain at home
Mrs. Mary Ann Katsiane, Central Charging Records, to remain at home
Barry D. Latta, Book Stack Service, to move to Florida

WHO'S NEW?

Shirley Utudjian, the new assistant in the Children's Room at Mattapan, hails originally from Braintree, but she has been going to school and working in Boston for the past seven years.

After getting her BA in Sociology at Northeastern, Shirley attended Boston College School of Social Work on a part time basis, while she was working at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. However, she feels that her job in the library more ideally combines her long standing interest in children and her love of books.

Shirley keeps busy taking courses in voice and music theory at the New England Conservatory, singing, as soloist, in Newton's Trinity Church, and participating in the activities of the Handel and Haydn Society.

*

Fine Art's Mrs. Marcia J. Battaglia is studying at Simmons. She majored in French literature at Colby and studied in Lyon on a Fulbright before going to

Washington where she first worked for the Government and then joined the District's Public Library System. She is going to live in Cambridge.

*

J. Edward Keefe III, Central Charging Records, is commuting to the BPL from Jamaica Plain. Ed is taking a year off from Harvard, where he is a Math major, and is considering heading towards a PhD and college teaching. Ed does a lot of reading and is also interested in hockey.

*

Edward J. Diffley has joined the staff of Cataloging and Classification (HR &CS) until June when he is going into the Army. Ed is a native of Providence where he attended Providence College, majoring in Classics. He got his Library Science degree from Rutgers in January and has also worked as a trainee in the East Orange Public Library. Ed calls himself an avid tennis player and his last comment was that he is single!

*

The smiling new face in the Children's room at South End belongs to Mrs. Della M. Jones. She was born in Oakdale, Louisiana, and was graduated from Southern University at Baton Rouge. After graduate work in Michigan, she married and moved here. Her hobbies include tennis and swimming.

*

Arthur M. Wolman, Uphams Corner, is making good use of his background in the study and application of social work, in his work with Young Adults. Art's hitch in the Army took him through parts of the Orient and added to his interest in music, art, theatre and the study of social and cultural functions. He is a graduate of Kenyon College.

*

The young man whom YA borrowers hover about at Memorial is Paul D. Cronin. He received his degree from Stonehill and did graduate work at Pittsburgh. Paul likes sailing and swimming. Equestriennes on the staff will be glad to learn that he also owns a few horses and is single!

*

Brenda H. Hemingway, Uphams Corner, attended Roxbury Memorial High, then went to Morgan State College, majoring in French and minoring in Spanish and Education, graduating with honors in 1960. Brenda also spent one semester the the Atlanta University School of Library Science, and will attend Simmons for her Library Science masters starting this summer.

Brenda had a long list of activities in college including listing in WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Her present hobbies are reading, golf, writing poetry and taking driving lessons at the Y.

MICHAEL DELLO RUSSO

On Tuesday, April 5 at 3 p.m., Michael Dello Russo went to his final reward. Mike - as he was familiarly known - entered the library service on March 28, 1927. He worked for six years in the Buildings Department and it was during this time that he met Antoinette Di Dio, his future wife, who was working in the Book Stack Service.

Mike's work often had him carrying books to and from the Binding Department and on September 18, 1933 he became a full time employee of that department. And he knew so much about the work. When there was some doubt about the color of material to use in binding a book, or the way a sample volume should be bound, it was Mike's knowledge of the stacks that served the Bindery in good stead. His duties were varied - he started the books on the various binding processes and he also had complete charge of the cutting of stock, which was no mean chore.

We will miss his even disposition and his eagerness to do a favor for anyone. To his wife Antoinette, his fine son and lovely daughter we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

HENRY FAHEY

CURB ON LUNCH HOURS?

We learned recently, that Kirstein has a most interesting problem, as yet unsolved - that of the disappearing new staff members. Several new employees have been sent downtown to them - one after another. And they have checked out for lunch - one after another - and have never returned!

OVERHEARD FROM MEMBER OF NEVER-TOO LATE

"...but I can't do that, it's too late."

BOOKS ADDED TO STAFF LIBRARY FIRST QUARTER 1961

American Library Association
Studying the Community
Chicago, 1960

Barton, Mary N
Reference books. 4th edition
Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1959

Doms, Keith and Howard Rovelstad
Guidelines for Library Planners; Proceedings of the Library Buildings & Equipment Institute, ALA June 1959
Chicago. ALA, 1960

Downs, Robert B
The First Freedom
Chicago, ALA, 1960

Glaister, Geoffrey A
Glossary of the book
London, George Allen & Unwin, 1960

Graham, Clarence
The first book of public libraries
NY, Franklin Watts, 1959

Hoffman, Hester R
Readers adviser and bookman's manual
9th edition
NY, Bowker, 1960

Marshall, John D
Of, By, and For Librarians
Hamden, Conn. Shoe String Press, 1960

Powell, Lawrence C
Books in my baggage
NY, World, 1960

Schick, Frank
The paper-bound book in America
NY, Bowker, 1958

University of Illinois Library School
Library Trends. Vol. 9, no. 1, July 1960 (Issue devoted to State Aid to Public Libraries)
Urbana, Illinois, University of Illinois Library School, July 1960

Wolf, Edwin
Rosenbach
NY, World, 1960

MORE ON STUDENT USE

The situation in Reading - where use of the public library was banned for students in the evenings, starting in December - is now the subject of a comprehensive survey of the high school student body, according to the Lawrence EAGLE of March 28. A progress report of the student committee was submitted to the town meeting, recommending that the ban be removed as soon as possible.

Questions included in the survey are these:

Do you have serious need of the library from 7-9 pm?
Are you unable to use the library in the afternoon? If so, why?
Has it been necessary to use libraries in neighboring towns?
How often is the school library used? When? For what purpose?
Is the school library adequate for resource material?
What teachers assign material not available in the school library?

Teachers were also asked how a few questions such as how often they assign homework requiring library material, and whether they thought the school library adequate.

Results are still being compiled.

(Reading has made heavy use of the BPL according to comparative call-slip figures kept by the Periodical and Newspaper Department)

*

The Wilmington Delaware EVENING JOURNAL of April 8 carried a front page article on theft of pages from the materials of the Wilmington library by students, especially in the reference department. Student use has almost doubled there in the past few years.

Florence Kniffen, head of the reference department says the main difficulties in student use there is that too many students are assigned to the same books, that there are too many students and not enough staff, that the students have insufficient knowlede and understanding of the actual assignment given.

Wilmington handles about 3000 students on a Saturday.

According to Harland Carpenter, Director of the Library, more money for books and librarians would help the situation, even to mutilations (made because of insufficient copies of materials?). He has asked for an increase of $25,000 this year for materials and staffing. Last years budget for City-County library system was $400,000.

*

A welcome "plus" for this column occurred this month. A teacher called the library to ask what materials we had available on co-education. When some members of her class came in to prepare for a debate, we were aware of their needs and able to find appropriate material.

Another "plus" action was the visit of 26 sophomores from the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High (our fame is spreading) accompanied by two teachers. Although we had no advance warning, the group was split in two smaller groups, and the teachers made it a point to show the students HOW to use the indexes, catalogs, etc, and made certain they followed the procedures desired by the staff, through frequent consultations.

*

A young (5th grade?) man at General Reference blurted, "I have to find a book on the troubles of North America." Further questioning failed to reveal clearly whether this was a bona fide assignment or whether this particular young man had simply slept through a series of Current Events classes in which the "Troubles" had been discussed!

*

The Junior and Senior classes at Boston English (about 500) were given an assignment on Greek, Roman and Norse gods. They were asked to find the equivalent figures in the different mythologies.

*

Another class at Boston English came into the library with an extra-credit project to find an "event" (not further defined) for every year in Samuel Johnson's life. The General Reference staff, searching for chronological lists, could not help wonder what the boys were learning.

*

Boston Latin too has one instructor with a fondness for the "bonus" or as he designates it "the treasure hunt" question which gives the student extra credit if found. Staff members in several departments find these queries little help in teaching use of the library, or real facts, to the students, but they do provide very real nuisance value to the staff in wasted time and energy. The questions on the whole are apt to be obsure. Research methods could be more simply taught.

*

Some senior classes at Boston Latin have a history assignment, each with an individual topic. One of these is research on the Pro-German organizations of the 1930s.

*

Lowell State Teachers has an assignment in vol. 50 of the American Mercury. We are one of the nearer libraries which has the volume.

*

A Boston College freshman English class of 140 students cannot complete their assignment without using this library as the men doing research on the older plays cannot find reviews and critical comment in the periodical files at the college.

*

Boston Latin 9th grade assignment involving two classes with a total of 60 students must read Lamb's HANNIBAL. A period of one month is allowed to complete the assignment. No copies are available at the school.

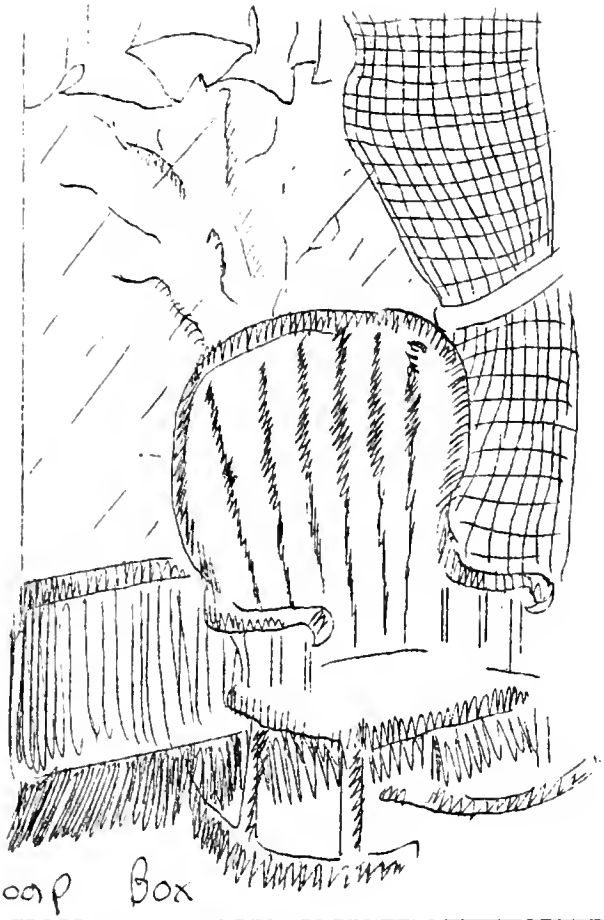
*

10th grade English High class of 40 students must each read one of the three titles assigned written by Bruce Catton.

AMONG OUR REQUESTS

Book titles
Insulin Chariots
No Manners in Ireland
The Terrific Lover
Joseph and His Buttons
Anger of the Killers
Dead Sea Scrawls
Donkey Oate
Trundling into Maine
Decayed
Foods Without Fats

Authors
Davy Knee
Tim O'Shenko
Donald Kehole



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Editor:

Recently a car belonging to a member of the staff was towed from Blagden Street while several people who knew the owner stood by. No one took the time to let him know about this before, during or after. I wonder how many of these smug onlookers would themselves like to pay a towing fee and have added to that the total surprise of finding a space where the car had been left, without at least being told.

TOP FLOOR

To the Editor -

Was it necessary to pick one of the school vacation periods to open again on full schedules? Could not the opening have been deferred until the needed staff was secured and given at least a run-through on duties and locations? Vacation weeks are so busy that few staffs can spare even one member to train or even guide new staff. Who is going to run slips, shelve etc. for the hordes we expect to use the library?

ON THE FIRING LINE

To the Soap Box:

Could not we have had more warning that the library was to return to its old hours? Some departments lack full time staff to cover the hours, some lack part-time staff, some both. It is impossible to recruit, interview and train even part-time staff in so short a period, to provide adequate service when we re-open.

WORRIED

Dear Soap Box,

The library is resuming full service next week, and our former shame over our library's reduced hours is alleviated. But what sort of reputation will we now earn if we are opening understaffed in a week which calls attention to libraries and which is also a week of very constant use by studnnts on vacation?

CASSANDRA

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES - 1961

PRESIDENT	RUTH M. HAYES
VICE PRESIDENT	LOUIS RAINS
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PHYLLIS ADAMS	MILDRED PICONE
KATHLEEN HEGARTY	LOUIS POLISHOOK

(Note: Most recent past president, Mrs Sarah W. Flannery, is a non-voting member of the Board. Dorothy P. Shaw as Editor of Publications (or a member of the Publications Committee) is "allowed to attend the meetings of the Executive Boatrd but not to take part in the discussions or in the voting".)

STANDING COMMITTEES

CONCESSION COMMITTEE

Max Anapole	Periodical and Newspaper Dept.
* William Kane	Buildings Dept.
Mary McDonald	Bookmobiles
Mrs. Evelyn Marden	East Boston Branch
** Frances O'Hare	Accounting Dept.
A. Kay Decker, Chairman	Branch Issue Dept.

* Representative of the Boston Public Library Building Service Employees International Union, Local #409 (AFL)

** Representative of other groups not represented in the Association or the Union.

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B. Joseph O'Neil	Periodical and Newspaper Dept.
Louis Polishook, Chairman	Central Charging Records

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Mary Bennett	East Boston Branch
Mary Bowker	Washington Village Branch
Elinor Conley	Dorchester Branch
Bertha Keswick	Branch Issue Dept.
Ellen Peterson	Hyde Park Branch
Mildred Presente, Chairman	Hyde Park Branch

HOUSE COMMITTEE FOR MEN

Max Anapole	Periodical and Newspaper Dept.
Thomas MacGlaughlin	Book Stack Service
Arthur Mulloney	Statistical Dept.
James MacNiff	Catalog and Classification D
Michael Venezia, Chairman	Patent Room

HOUSE COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN

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Patricia Feeney	Audio Visual Dept.
Jeanne Fitzgerald	Science and Technology Dept.
Anna Scanlon	Book Preparation Dept.
Mary Sheehan, Chairman	Book Purchasing Dept.

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL MATTERS

Gerald Ball	Book Purchasing Dept.
Louis Polishook	Central Charging Records
Frank Levine, Chairman	North End Branch

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Corrine Henderson	Central Charging Records
Etta Kessell	Lower Mills Branch
Ruth Marshall	Education Dept.
Ollie Partridge	Open Shelf Dept.
David Sheehan	General Reference Dept.
Norman Wolman	Uphams Corner Branch
Eleanora Chaplik, Chairman	Codman Sq. Branch

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Harry Andrews	Branch Issue Dept.
Dorothy Becker	Egleston Square Branch
Frank Bruono	Science and Technology Dept.
Ruth Conroy	Codman Sq. Branch
Ann Duggan	Bookmobile
Doris Gray	Book Selection Dept., H. R. S.
Edward J. Montana	Periodical and Newspaper Dept.
Mildred Picone	Catalog and Classification
Augusta Rubinstein	Mattapan Branch
Irene Tuttle, Chairman	South Boston Branch

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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Mary Hackett	Parker Hill Branch
Sewell Hayes	Periodical Room
Kathleen Hegarty	Division Office, H. R. S.
Lorraine Hepburn	Bookmobile
Mildred Kaufman	Memorial Branch
Myra Morse	Dorchester Branch
Marian Schmitt	General Reference Dept.
Edna G. Peck, Chairman	Book Selection, H. R. S.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Arthur Curley	Open Shelf Dept.
A. Kay Decker	Branch Issue
James J. Ford	Education Dept.
Rose Moorachian	Mattapan Branch
Caroline R. Stanwood	General Reference Dept.
I. Roger Stevens	Audio Visual Dept.
Sarah M. Usher	Records, Files and Statistics
Dorothy P. Shaw	Periodical Dept.

SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (To be announced)

James J. Ford, Chairman	Teacher's Dept.

C A R E COMMITTEE

Margaret Lewis	South Boston Branch
Mildred R. Somes	Book Preparation Dept.
Ollie Partridge, Chairman	Open Shelf Dept.

S O R T Committee

Mildred Kaufman	Memorial Branch
Margaret Morgan	Connolly Branch
Pauline Walker, Chairman	West Roxbury Branch

ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY AIDES (To be announced)

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 5 May 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Sarah M. Usher, Indexer, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication Date:
The fifteen of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

Yes, we know the QUESTION MARK is out late this month. However, it is not entirely the fault of the Publications Committee. It is the fault of you, and you, and perhaps you - all the yous who either forgot or failed to meet the deadline for materials, the yous who refused to write the brief report requested of you, the other yous who did not volunteer material or information we might well have used - usually with the plea that you had no time.

The deadline for materials submitted for publication is always the tenth of the month. This is necessary in order that the Committee may meet, select, edit, and plan the paging for the issue - may obtain the ten lines needed to fill one column, the five lines for another. If you think carefully, five days is all too little for this, for the cutting of stencils (which takes THREE DAYS), for mimeographing, assembling, stapling, and delivery, especially as one or more of these intervening days between deadlines may be a Saturday, Sunday or holiday. And your Committee has routines and public desks to cover just as you have. It helps most of all to have materials in well before the tenth, for some stencils may then be cut in advance.

This deadline of the tenth has been "slipping" more and more in recent months, as much of the Library is operating with a pre-war staff serving a much increased patronage and giving wider services. Since your present editor must also cut the stencils, missing this deadline means you are, in effect, making your editor merely a typist. And the quality of the paper is definitely suffering, as there is not time to think, edit, write and plan - only time to do a very hasty assembly and typing job, which in itself falls below proper standards. Changing the deadline would serve no purpose, as each person seems to feel that the delay of his contribution for a few hours or a few days will make little difference, for it can easily be placed on a later page. Since most think of it in this fashion, nothing comes in, so NO page can be completed. This month practically nothing was in our hands until late on Friday the 12th or Monday the 15th. We could not possibly meet our deadline.

This QUESTION MARK is yours as well as ours, and only cooperation and interest can make it the paper it should be, and representative of the best of the Boston Public Library and its staff. This editorial is not in a spirit of complaint or reproach. It is intended simply to state the problems your Committee is facing each month, in the hope that you regard your paper highly enough to do your share, on time, and permit us to produce a carefully considered piece of work, rather than the present hasty attempt at scrambling material as it comes in bit by bit.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

There was an interesting meeting of the Executive Board of the Staff Association on May 9, at which time there was a continuation of the discussions of the past few months with the Assistant Director (for Personnel). These discussions have been primarily concerned with the ways and means of attracting additional qualified personnel to the ranks of BPL workers. We have been attempting to form an acceptable program, one that would be in no way prejudicial to the status of present staff members. We believe we have such a plan; we believe it is workable; we believe it is possible of achievement. It awaits now only the approval of the Board of Trustees of the BPL. The work of job analysis goes on, and the Staff Association will undoubtedly have representation on any committee assisting in the job classification.

Due to the pressures of her own job in the Personnel Office, Mrs. Evelyn Isaacs has felt obliged to resign her office as Corresponding Secretary. We regret that she cannot continue as an officer in the Association. The Executive Board, as empowered by the Constitution, took action to fill the office left vacant by Mrs. Isaacs resignation. Emilia Lange of the Print Department has been appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy.

Remember the Business Meeting to be held on Friday the 19th of May!

Ruth M. Hayes

WHY DON'T WE ...?

Install a drinking fountain on the second floor? The public is usually amazed that they have to go downstairs for a drink, and the staff would appreciate a closer source too! The pipes could be connected to the already running water in the workroom near the elevator.

*

Label exhibition case books etc with call-number, author and title etc.? One, or more, of these items usually does not show on the book itself. Department location would also be most useful. Adjoining departments cannot answer queries by patrons, and many times the Exhibits office is closed at the time of the query.

Have sufficient full-sized cakes of soap in the staff washrooms? Half size cakes do not last as long, slip down the drain sooner and thus the last fragment is wasted. Library work is not clean work, and we do need to wash occasionally. If, as we are told, someones steals the hand-reddening stuff, why not install ground soap-flakes in those hand machines?

*

Limit the use of staff facilities and coffee shop to outside committee members (Mass. Library Association etc) and Never-Too-Laters to periods when our own staff is not struggling to keep to a short relief period or lunch hour? Our public washrooms are now adequate and pleasant, and there are other eating facilities nearby.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 8-9	MLA Summer Meeting West Harwich
May 28-June 1	SLA, San Francisco
July 9-15	ALA, Cleveland Ohio

RETIREMENT

James P. Kenney of the Buildings Department is retiring on May 31, after more than thirty years of faithful service. The many friends Jim made through the years by his thoughtfulness and willingness to help, presented him with a purse at a dinner held in his honor at Steuben's Vienna Room on April 26. Jim is not going to take retirement seriously, since he has taken a job as Steward at the Quincy Yacht Club.

Best of luck in your new endeavor, Jim!

THOMAS P. GEOGHEGAN

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Each year the changing of the hour
Afflicts our clocks with magic power;
Each one ticks on its merry way,
Pointing to wrong hours of day,
Three hours fast, or four hours slow,
Confusing us, around they go.
When all are synchronized at last,
Will Daylight Saving Time be past?

RM

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees
John W. Bouchea, Kirstein
Geraldine Mikolajewski, Division Office, R & RS
Sheila A. Sinclair, Kirstein
Mrs. Margaret H. Zindler, Dorchester

Transferred
William T. Casey, Connolly to Central Book Stock-Branch Issue

Resigned
Constance Broadhurst, Open Shelf, to remain at home
Gerald S. Coles, Washington Village, to accept another position
Audrey Silva, Mt. Bowdoin, to be married and move to Kansas

WHO'S NEW?

Barbara LaFlamme, Fine Arts, is from Cambridge. On a first co-op, Barbara is class of '65 at Northeastern. She has just moved away from Fort Devens, and, as her father is in the Army, has lived most of her life on a host of other Army posts!

*

The new "mailboy", Martin Shore, works in Records, Files, Statistics. Northeastern, class of '64, he is a Government major and is also in ROTC. Martin is interested in light music, has been a member of Northeastern's Jazz Club, and has played intra-mural basketball, and enjoys fishing.

*

Gerald Blonder, Open Shelf, is a Sociology major, class of '62, at Northeastern. This is his first job in the Library; he has spent two other co-ops at the Boston Traveller and the Boston State Hospital. One of Gerald's interests is Northeastern's Sociology Club, which sponsors talks on Friday afternoons on a variety of subjects - one that sounded challenging was a discussion by a British psychiatrist on the differences between English and American life.

*

One of Judaica's new assistants is Geraldine Mikolajewski from Chelsea. She has beenstudying business management at Northeastern, but she resigned upon her engagement to Arthur Douglas (Science and Technology). Geraldine plans to work for a while, then she and Arthur plan to be married November 26. Best wishes to them both!

*

The prospective groom is Arthur Douglas, Science and Technology. He is enrolled in Northeastern's College of Education, an English major with a Science minor. Arthur is a member of the Rifle Club and a writer for the Northeastern News. He hopes to go on for a Master's degree and teach at the high school or college freshman level.

*

Another new face in Judaica belongs to Agnes McLaughlin, a Northeastern Sophomore majoring in Sociology. From Waltham, Agnes plays the flute and is a part of the university band. She is also taking part in a volunteer sociology project - working with orphans.

*

James A. MacDonald is an old hand around the BPL: he has worked as a part time assistant in both Periodical and Newspaper and in General Reference before joining the staff of Central Charging Records. Jim attended Newman Prep this fall and has played football in the Park Department's leagues. He may continue his education next year, and in the meantime he maintains a real interest in sports.

*

Mark Alpert isn't new to the BPL either. Mark, who has worked part time in Fine Arts and admits to having spent some time in the Branches, is class of '65 at Northeastern, and is spending a co-op in Central Charging Records. Mark worked as the business manager of his school magazine and wants to continue in a field where he will be working with people - perhaps Sociology.

*

Errol Baker, Central Book Stock, is a psychology major, Northeastern '64. He spent a previous co-op at the Boston Psychopathic hospital. He intends to remain in the field, perhaps doing research. Errol also admitted to an interest in chess.

*

Class of '65 at Northeastern, Janice Wright is taking her first co-op in Book Purchasing. Her major is in Sociology and she would like to get into government work. Janice collects coins, has played basketball, and keep up with football through her interest in drum and bugle!

History's Mary Mahan is another Northeastern co-op student. Mary is a Physics major, class of '64, and wants to go into some phase of the scientific world. She has worked a previous co-op at United Air Craft, but she is now able to live at home, Holliston, and commute to the BPL.

*

Emily Fagerberg, Business Office, is also at Northeastern, class of '65. She plans to major in Political Science and is interested in the Foreign Service. Emily has studied four languages, and, in a lighter vein, should need arise is prepared to defend herself through her training as a member of Northeastern's Rifle Club!

*

Carol Darish, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS, comes from Medford and is studying English at Northeastern. Active in Student Union and her sorority, Carol's special likes include HiFi and jazz.

*

Arthur MacDonald, Book Stack Service, is in his third year at Northeastern where he is an Economics major. A member of the Pershing Rifles, he hopes to make the army his career. Arthur comes from Malden, likes tennis and collects war novels (he has about 200).

*

Studying English at Northeastern, Marcia Soolman, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS, would like to make magazine writing her career. She is from Brookline and she likes to dance. She enjoys books on political science and novels.

*

Book Stack Service's Milton Taylor, comes from Everett and is a psychology major at Northeastern where he is active in both the psychology and sociology clubs. Milton likes to read and is a movie fan.

NEW CROP

To Esther and Macy J. Margolis (History) a son, David Selman at 10.51 p.m. April 4. Fighting weight 7 lbs, 5 3/4 oz.

*

Added to our Director's roster of grandchildren, Robena Milcoat. Her mother is Mrs Conrad (Anne Lord) Malicoat of New York.

*

Catherine Ann O'Halloran arrived April 14 and received a warm welcome from papa Louis, Division Office HR & CS, and mamma Kay Duffy, formerly of Book Selection, HR & CS, and her sister and brother, Maureen and Richard.

*

Scott Anthony Fitzgerald, on March 23, to Mr and Mrs Edward Fitzgerald. Mother is the former Geraldine Coyman, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS.

ADDENDA-WHO'S NEW?

Among the bachelors joining the staff is Edward T. O'Donnell, South Boston. Ed lives in Weymouth and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard at the beginning of the year. He is a veteran of three years service in the Army. As a YA worker it seems only right that his interests should include reading and baseball.

WANT A PEN PAL?

Harry Andrews, Central Book Stock, is recuperating from virus pnewmonia in Sharon, and reportedly living the life of a country squire. His address is Box 96, Back Bay P.O, Boston 17. With luck and good behavior, Harry should be back among us come July.

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The CLA met in St. Louis April 3-7 for its annual convention. Anna Manning (alumna from Education) conducted an Adult services program with Mary Alice Rea (Book Purchasing) as one of the speakers.

Padraic Colum was the recipient of the Regina Medal, awarded each year to one who has devoted a life time to literature for children.

Other speakers included Rev. John Tracy Ellis, Barry Ulanov, John Delaney, Rev. Walter J. Ong, SJ, and Cardinal Ritter.

Visits to the St. Louis Public Library and the new Pius XII Library of the University of St. Louis made the trip worthwhile.

One glance at our Registration tags and again we were asked, "When are we going to Boston again?"

A.L.M.

DID YOU REMEMBER TO CARE?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

This is the first question posed by many new staff members when they are invited to join the Boston Public Library Staff Association. Since this is a very human, practical, if somewhat self-seeking question, which even older staff members turn over in their minds at times, the Membership and Hospitality Committee thinks it deserves a considered answer. All too often the aims and objectives of our Staff Association have been stated in too broad, too abstract and too altruistic terms to have any real meaning for the average individual. We would like to speak, therefore, about one of the major concerns of the Staff Association, namely the common welfare of the bibliothecal staff.

The term "welfare" consists of many items including an adequate salary, opportunity for advancement, fringe benefits and decent working conditions. During any administravtive discussion of these matters, the Staff Association, through its elected Executive Board is usually your representative. At all times the Executive Board seeks to keep the Administration aware of the staff wants and needs in general.

Throughout the United States, among members of the Staff Organizations Round Table of the ALA, our staff organization is highly regarded as a leading library staff association. It has achieved this reputation thanks to the courage which its officers, past and present, have shown in bringing staff problems to the attention of the Administration, and insisting that these problems be solved wherever a solution is possible.

The Administration of the BPL has earned an equally fine, widespread reputation for democratic practices by virtue of its willingness to consult with the staff on personnel policy decisions. We point with pride to the fact that our Assistant Director for Personnel, in recent months, has discussed proposals for changes in personnel practices with the Executive Board before these changes have become established facts with which we all must live. As you know, since last winter, our President has been in attendance, by invitation, at open meetings of the Board of Trustees. She represents all members whenever the Trustees seek to learn what the staff thinks about matters under discussion.

When controversial personnel issues arise, the Executive Board often serves in the role of mediator between staff and administration. Thus the existence of the Association ensures you of having a potential voice in decisions affecting the bibliothecal personnel of the library. Without such an organization for channelling staff opinions, it would be virtually impossible for Administration, however well-meaning, to be aware of how proposals affect your morale and mine.

Once you are a member, how can you make direct use of the Association in its staff welfare function? If there are any specific personnel issues you would like to see more fully discussed, for clarification or possible change in policies, bring these matters to the attention of the Personnel Committee. Broadly representative of the bibliothecal staff, this committee exists to consider proposals or problems of staff members, and to bring to the Executive Board all questions or suggestions with sufficient widespread interest or merit, to warrant possible action on the part of the whole Association. (Members may go directly to the Executive Board, or the body of the Association if they prefer.) In the past the Personnel Committee has made surveys of salary schedules and various personnel practices in other libraries which have eventually served as a basis for changes in the policies of our own library.

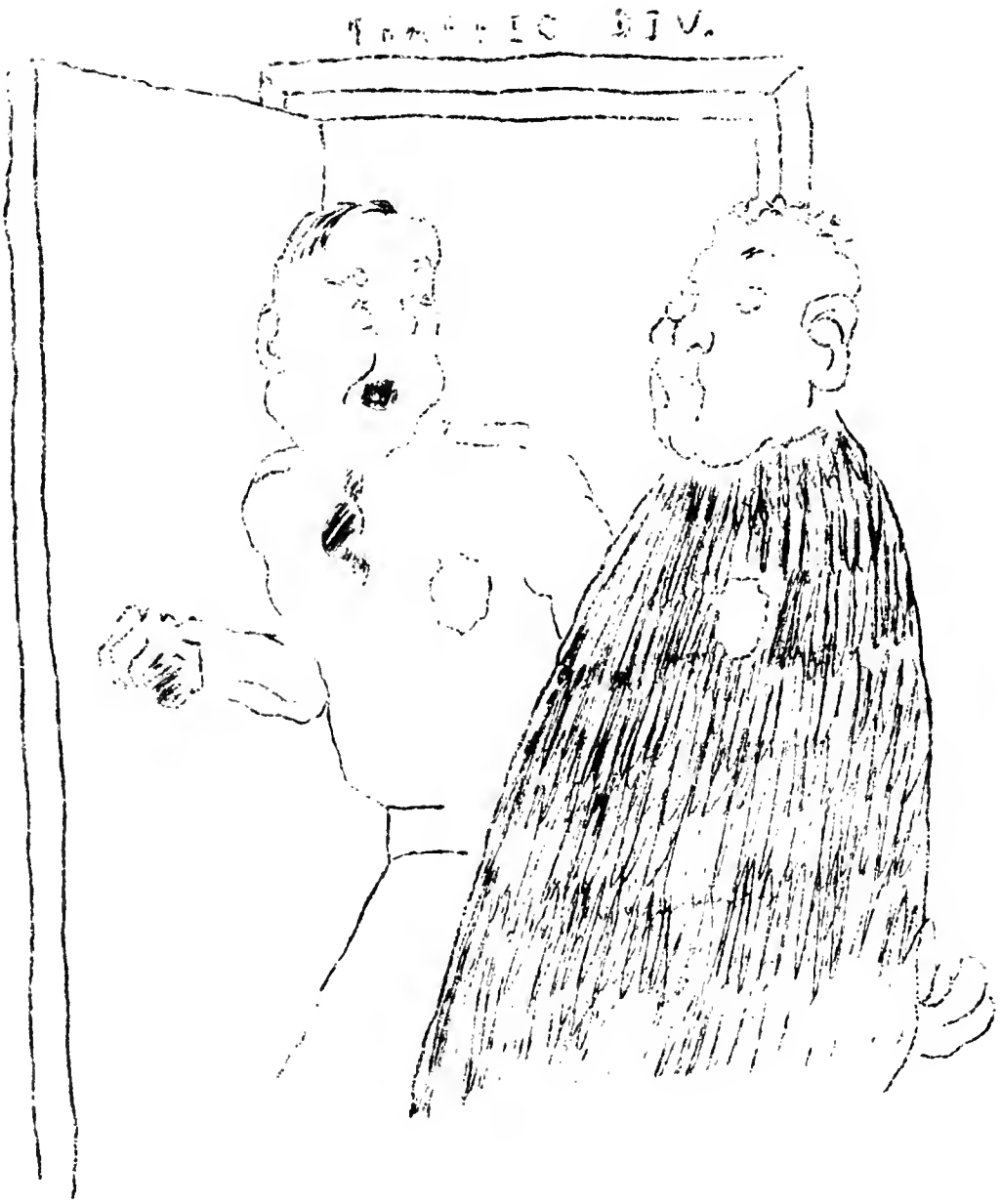
What you get, then, as an Association member, along with many other benefits, is easy access to one of the most effective means of two-way communication between staff and administration.

Send your yearly dues of 50¢ to David Sheehan, General Reference, Treasurer of the BPLSA, so that you will be able to participate actively in the organization most deeply concerned with your well-being.

ELEANORA CHAPLIK
Chairman, Membership
and Hospitality Committee

FROM ILLINOIS

Anna Manning saw George Early in St. Louis...he is very happy as Chief Librarian of the Alton Public Library. They keep in touch through QM and send regards to all their friends at the BPL.



"If we get paid in nickels again I'm turning in my badge."

WHO SAYS RENEWAL?

Some of the young people in the South End said it through their "Beautify Boston" posters exhibited at the South End Library through the cooperation of the Art Department of the Boston Public Schools. At the program held on May 8, ten young people from the seventh and eighth grades were awarded prizes of water colors and one book for first prizes and boxes of crayons for second and third prizes. Elizabeth Gordon, Deputy Supervisor (Work with Children) made the awards William Croke, a local boy who is a high school senior, talked for about five minutes on his views on Youth and the Boston Renewal, the talk being based on a paper he had done for his class in social studies. The Boston Renewal Authority was represented by Richard Green, who was the principal speaker. He spoke informally to the children about their part in keeping Boston clean. Samuel Messena of the Mayor's Citizens' Relations Office was among the guests and spoke briefly.

Mrs. Rosetta P. Martin delighted both children and adults with her telling of several African legends, one of which was the Cow-tail Switch. Mrs. Martin, now with Bookmobiles, was on the staff at South End for over two years, in the Children's Room. If this part of the program seems irrelevant to urban renewal and the art posters, the audience did not take it so. There was certainly a bit of personal renewal for the guests in listening to the stories. On exhibit were African dolls lent by the Misses Grace and Marie Turner, and a number of new books on Africa.

The Library was indebted to the South End Businessmen's Association for the expenses of prizes and refreshments. George Adams, the Vice-President and one of the judges of the posters in the contest, wrote that he was "impressed with the posters and pleased to have a part in the project". If some of the small fry grabbed too many cookies and demanded too many cups of punch at the refreshment table, the Association will surely forgive them!

PEARL START

A request was left in Open Shelf for CATCH HER IN THE RYE.

BOOKS LEAD TO AUTHORS

The second annual Book and Author Luncheon, co-sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the Women's National Book Association and the Boston HERALD-TRAVELER, brought nearly 1000 booklovers to the Sheraton Plaza on April 17. After a witty introduction by Edna G. Peck, chairman of the Luncheon Committee, and a well-received announcement, by Milton E. Lord of the re-establishment of full services at the BPL, the guest authors took the stand.

Marguerite Cullman, authof of NINETY DOZEN GLASSES and wife of the American Commissioner Gerneral at the Brussels World Fair, chose to comment on what America is not doing abroad. She pointed out that while other countries choose men of the highest quality and men with special training to fill diplomatic posts, the US rewards with ambassadorships those who have been most useful to the party in power or men who can entertain regally at their own expense. On visits to numerous embassies, Miss Cullman found only other Americans being entertained by ambassadors who could not even speak the language of the county in which they represent the image of the US. How many countries, she asks, have been unwittingly slighted by the appointment of an incompetent diplomatic representative?

Richard Tregaskis, responsible for GUADALCANAL DIARY, is this year the author of two books: X-15 DIARY and LAST PLANE TO SHANGHAI. He asserts, as does the latter book, that Communist tactics in Southeast Asia have followed a consistent pattern since the civil war in China, and that the West has permitted a silent takeover simply because a declaration of war or a "Pearl Harbor" has not occurred to make us aware of what should be obvious.

Sloan Wilson (MAN IN THE GRAY FLANNEL SUIT, A SUMMER PLACE, and A SENSE OF VALUES) described himself as a young man (he is 31) still learning the lessons of life. Commenting on the art of writing, he remarked that a man must write only of what he knows intimately, but that cynicism, sophistication, and pretenses must be left in the classroom.

The final speaker, F. Van Wyck Mason, is represented by twenty-one titles in the Open Shelf Department catalog, the latest of which is MANILA GALLEON. Although

famous for his "historical novels", Mr Mason claimed that he is now attempting to write "readable histories", in which a minimum amount of contrivance permits history to carry the theme.

ARTHUR V. CURLEY

STUDENT USE CONTINUES

The spring school vacation week was so overwhelmingly busy that we were unable to make notes on the assignments. But it is obvious that the number of schools using the library is rapidly growing, that the students come from further and further away, and that they are not receiving any training in library use prior to being turned loose on the collections. Mutilation is mounting, so is unofficial "borrowing" of materials.

*

The entire freshman class of Boston University's College of Basic Studies had a paper on careers. The Education Department, which seems to be stuck with the Arco pamphlets and other verticle file material just now, was overrun! The students also used Black's Law Dictionary to provide a legal definition of their "career".

*

150 boys from Boston Latin School were assigned a paper on Jonathan Swift. They were told to use a certain number of Primary sources, which meant that they all wanted to circulate 18th century books!

*

Each member of a Boston University course, European Film, had to do a paper on films in one European country. These proved difficult topics.

*

Students are no longer being informed by their schools, as was formerly done in art and fashion courses, that they are not permitted to trace from library materials without pyralin or a similar product between the book and the tracing paper. It is practically impossible to be aware that such "direct" tracing is being done on days when there is a continuous waiting line for attention. Yet it does not take long to ruin materials traced from without protection. Nor does a department always have sufficient pyralin for an entire class. We suggest direct circularization of all art, fashion and junior colleges with fashion and art courses, before the fall term, by the Library.

*

During school vacation week a Needham High student insisted that she must list publisher's address on each bibliographical item for a periodical reference. The nuisance value of this is considerable, even if it was probably a mis-understanding of her teacher's words.

*

There are also amusing by-products of student use at times. Someone must drive the student in from the far-distant towns. Mother is usually elected. One busy afternoon, the staff saw one such mother busily engaged in hemming and otherwise sewing upon dresses she was making for daughter.

Then there were the two 12 year olds who approached the O in C desk for permission to take out non-circulating materials. Unsuccessful, one said to the O in C in threatening tones, "You know, I've got connections down at City Hall."

*

There is, in the January 1 LIBRARY JOURNAL an interesting article on TV Library Instruction. It is written from the point of view of instruction by TV in a classroom. We did wonder, however, if TV might not be a very helpful medium on open circuit, to teach our patrons how to use the card catalog, the periodical indexes, how to make out a call-slip properly, the use of reference tools etc., all of which could be sold them as a means of making maximum use of the library facilities with the least waste of time. A program might also be useful on mutilations and why such a practice prevents future students from obtaining materials necessary to their studies.

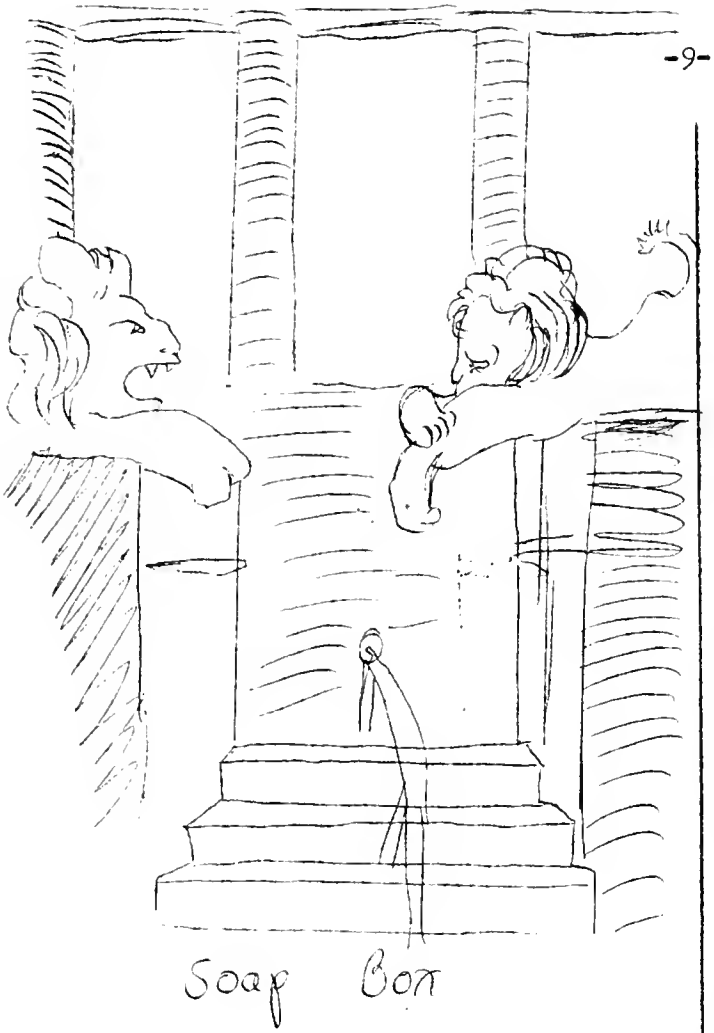
We are all for any classroom TV program of this sort too.

OTHER USE OF THE LIBRARY!

General Reference answered the phone recently, heard a dime dropped in a coin phone, then came the query: "This is a strange question, I know, but can you tell me what day of the week this is?"

*

On May 4 the Library received two long distance reference questions. General Reference was called from Downers, Illinois, the Patent Room from Shreveport, Ind.



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individualAssociation members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Soap-box,

I'm grateful for repairs to the water fountain in the Women's Lunch Room.

BIG DRINKER

For the Soap Box:

See the oft-fixed water cooler
Now repaired by expert tooler,
See it raise its liquid flow,
Wonderful, refreshing H_2O.
Gone is the disappearing trickle,
Sometimes showing, always fickle,
Of all the teasers to one's thirst,
This has always been the worst.
No more we emulate the clown,
In turning head around and down,
No longer is it just a troubler,
We've got a working water bubbler.

RM

Dear Soap Box:

The device of merit awards for intelligent suggestions is one that has enjoyed some popularity in industry, but in a service institution with a supposedly-professional staff, it is of doubtful value. There are some staff members at BPL who have offered serious suggestions even before the era of suggestion-boxes.

If serious consideration by the "board of editors" is part of the new program, I welcome the change. I fear, however, that insertion of the profit motive may actually discourage suggestions from those inspired by other than monetary concerns.

CONSCIENTIOUS

Dear Editor:

What's all this jazz about Awards? A few questions --

1) What will be done about ideas that are kicked around by several people and then submitted by one? How can one tell an originator from a retoucher?

2) Will this really create an interest in improvement or just result in a kind of idea volley ball among the efficiency experts on the staff?

3) How are we to combat the traditional policy of some to regard certain classes of personnel as incapable of constructive thought?

4) What about the poor fish who has a good idea and can't write it out or doesn't dare?

ADAM ANTI

Dear Soapbox:

Because someone is certain to think that I heard the tinkle of coins and ran to the nearest suggestion box, I am

writing to you.

As one who feels the loss of in-service training, I see the Friedman Fund as a chance to rectify the situation.

Couldn't we use part of this Fund to set up a loan (or grant) system whereby members of the staff could have money available to pay for courses (typing, shorthand, etc.) which would improve their abilities? A list of suggested courses and schools could be compiled and a limitation imposed, such as one course a year and a total of four per person.

Maybe there are others who feel as I do, maybe not. All those in favor of a betterment fund, please stand up!

GRASSHOPPER

Dear Soap Box,

Water gushes after several years of extremely low tide, in the bubbler of the Women's Kitchen. Cries of joy greeted the discovery that a new top which "really blew" like old Faithful, had been installed. It is truly wonderful to be able to obtain drinking water without using a suction pump! A dehydrated staff, now beginning to lose that parched look, is expressing its most heartfelt gratitude to the person or persons who finally did something about the situation after all those un-watered years.

ONE WHO THIRSTED LONG --

Dear Editor:

Several "study councils" have been instituted in the library for some time. We hear rumors that at least one of them has long since completed its study. But other than that, we hear nothing. Why?

Can a staff left in ignorance of tangible results attained by these "councils" be expected to have any faith in future such groups?

PUZZLED

CAR POOL?

If you are going to MLA in West Harwich June 8-9:

Do you have space in your car for passengers?

Do you need a ride?

Please notify Edna G. Peck, Book Selection, HR and CS ...

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

MAY 1961

T H E Q U E S T I O N M A R K

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 6 June 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Sarah M. Usher, Indexer, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

The recent General Administrative Notice on Salary Changes to attract qualified candidates to this Library, effective in July, with its resultant necessary adjustments in salaries and promotional procedures for other staff members, is the culmination of an excellent demonstration of what CAN be done in Staff-Administration cooperation when both desire to cooperate.

Working with a premise and a sum of money, the Executive Board, representing the Staff, and the Assistant Director for Personnel, representing the Administration, spent many long troubled hours comparing needs, basic premises, various possibilities, and causes and effect, until some decision satisfactory to all was finally reached. It was a pleasure to follow from start to finish. We hope it will be the first of many such mutually satisfying experiences.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

****

THE EDITOR

will be

on vacation

in JULY

Please send material for the
J U L Y I S S U E
not later than July 10
to
Arthur V. Curley
Open Shelf

***

Bon Voyage to all those going to ALA!

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

This has been another busy period of meetings - Executive Board Meetings - meetings with the Trustees and the Director and with the Assistant Director (for Personnel), as well as our usual Spring Business Meeting.

At the Business Meeting we announced the desire of many people for an up to date discount list. We mentioned that there was difficulty in getting people to serve on the Committee and that the Chairman had been forced to resign because of the pressure of other commitments. A committee was selected from the floor, as volunteers. Louis O'Halloran is chairman (committee listed on back page). If you have any information which will make easier their job of listing shops offering discounts, get in touch with any member of the committee.

The Nominating Committee for this year is under the chairmanship of Muriel C. Javelin (committee listed on back page). If you are willing to run for office or if you know others who would be willing to do so, get in touch with this Committee.

By this time you are acquainted with the results of the many conferences which were held to discuss the ways and means (within a limited budget) to meet competitive rates and to provide a realistic salary scale for entering librarians, and to complete the implementation of salary scales by bringing into proper step on the scale those employees who are still below their proper level.

Mr. Lord and the Trustees indicated their satisfaction with some of our activities and were pleased with the efforts of our Publications Committee to bring forth constructive studies of problems such as the "student use of the library".

Your Executive Board and Committees are vigilant and constantly expending their efforts in your behalf. Give them your support. Pay your dues now!

RUTH M. HAYES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9-15 ALA, Cleveland Ohio

ANY ONE INTERESTED IN JOINING ALA CONTACT
Mary D. Farrell
Cataloging and Classification R & RS

PERSONNEL NOTES

Returned from Military Service

Frank A. DeCola, Audio Visual

New Employees

Judith E. Coarr, Jamaica Plain (formerly part time)
Paul J. Dillen, Book Preparation
Richard Dumont, Central Charging Records (formerly part time)
Paul F. Grady, Book Stack Service
James J. Greene, Book Stack Service
Kathleen H. Jaime, Washington Village
Hugh T. McDonagh, Government Documents (formerly part time)
Thomas J. McDonough, Periodical and Newspaper
Patricia M. Murray, Business Office
Roger A. Rainville, Cataloging and Classification (HR & CS)
Nancy Ann Unis, Mt. Bowdoin
Susan J. Wall, Bookmobiles
Ella P. White, Cataloging and Classification, (R & RS), Northeastern Cooperative student
Thomas S. Moroney, Book Stack Service

Transferred

Edward P. Stenberg, Book Stack Service to Exhibits Office
Naomi D. Manowitz, Jamaica Plain to Central Charging Records

Resigned

Theodore R. Hargrave, Central Charging Records (closing of cloakroom)
Martin Laughlin, Periodical and Newspaper, to seek employment elsewhere
Peter Lewis, Music, to study at Tanglewood
Carolyn Rees, Education, to accept a position at the Holliston Public Library
Brendan Stafford, Book Preparation
Marcia Soolman, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS (Northeastern Cooperative student)

Retired

Alberta P. Kneeland, Music
James P. Kenney, Buildings
Delia A. Leonard, Buildings

Summer Projects

Book Stack Service

Lawrence Ball, formerly part-time Patent Room and Central Charging Records, BC sophomore
Kerry P. Caramanis, BU Sophomore

Thomas J. Gosnell, formerly part-time Memorial, BC Junior
Thomas H. Glynn, formerly part-time Open Shelf and Music, BC Sophomore
Warren K. Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, worked four years in College Library
Michael D. Healey, formerly part-time West End and Open Shelf, Harvard Junior
Peter W. McCallion, formerly part-time Hyde Park, State College, Boston, Sophomore
James W. McChesney, BU School of Theology 2d year
Paul F. McDevitt, formerly part-time Bookmobiles and Dorchester, BC Junior
Ralph W. McKinnis, Harvard
Edmond K. Mencey, BU College of Basic Studies, Sophomore
Walter C. Mickevich, Suffolk, Junior
David F. Morrissey, formerly part-time Central Charging Records, Book Stack Service, Branch Issue, State College of Boston, Sophomore
John J. O'Callaghan, Suffolk, Junior
Charles F. Rawdon, formerly part-time Periodical and Newspaper, BC, Senior
Henry D. Ricupero, formerly part-time North End, Northeastern 2d year
William H. Sexton, formerly part-time Parker Hill, Northeastern
Carl J. Stasio, formerly part-time East Boston, BC Sophomore
Aaron G. Weintraub, Harvard, Junior

Cataloging and Classification, R & RS

Pamela M. Calhoun, formerly part-time Washington Village, Suffolk, Junior
Rosalind Ferrante, formerly part-time Book Stack Service, State College of Boston, Senior
Patricia M. Hennigan, formerly part-time Lower Mills, Emmanuel, Sophomore
Patricia F. Logan, formerly part-time Washington Village, State College of Boston, Senior
Joan M. Nelson, formerly part-time Book Stack Service, State College of Boston Junior
Anne P. Santino, formerly part-time Book Stack Service, State College of Boston, Sophomore

Cataloging and Classification, HR & CS

Joseph T. Shea, formerly part-time same department, State College of Boston, freshman

Central Book Stock - Branch Issue Section

Mary L. Harrington, formerly part-time Adams Street, State College of Boston Junior
Loretta Kontrim, formerly part-time Parker Hill, Emmanuel, Junior
Mary Anne O'Hare, formerly part-time Washington Village, State College of Boston, Sophomore
Joseph Scannell, formerly part-time Central Charging Records, State College of Boston, Freshman
Lorraine Whitkens, formerly part-time South Boston, State College of Boston, Senior

POLICY CHANGE

We have had recently a growing number of people coming into the Library on short-term full-time employment, and in the light of this, the QUESTION MARK regrets that it is going to have to revise its policy in the Personnel Notes and Who's New? columns. Who's New? has been growing to an unmanageable length for the QM staff, and we have also felt that because it has become so long, it is hard to read and is not serving its purpose. We are, therefore, going to limit the Who's New? column to people entering the Library as permanent employees, and to those short term employees who return for a second full-time period. We will expand the Personnel Notes to give brief identification of each new Co-op or other short term employee. We sincerely regret we do not have time and space to continue our former policy.

WHO'S NEW?

Mrs. Margaret H. Zindler, Dorchester, is a graduate of Elmira College, receiving her BA in English. After a year at Houghton Mifflin's Elementary Education Department, she joins the staff as a preprofessional interested in Children's work. Her hobby is reading and she will have plenty of it when she goes to Simmons in the fall.

*

Sheila A. Sinclair, Kirstein, is currently attending Simmons. She graduated from Emmanuel with a major in French. Sheila now lives in Melrose, where she moved from Washington. Her hobbies include reading, dancing and sports in season.

Another new member of the staff at Kirstein is John W. Bouchea. Fresh out of Boston College High, John is quite new to the field but he likes it enough to be around for awhile. His sports interests are mainly in baseball and football.

ENGAGEMENT

Mary Casey, Book Stack Service, to Thomas McAlerney of Roxbury, on May 26 (her birthday)

NEW BABY

Alton Dunlop arrived at the home of the Thomas Hegartys on May 10. Tom formerly worked in several departments of the Library including Statistical, Central Charging and Periodical and Newspaper.

CASTRO AND THE NAVY

FINALLY cooperated with Esther Chute's (formerly Periodical and Newspaper) wedding plans after suddenly cancelling her May date. Her marriage to Lt. (jg) Strafford Morss USNR took place on June 8 at the First Parish Church in Brookline, with a garden reception at her Brookline home following the ceremony. They will be living near Newport R.I.

SOMETHING IN THE AIR?

There are days when things just happen- for example May 17 when Dave O'Keefe fell on the stairs and damaged his ankle.

Shortly thereafter a branch employee arrived at City Hospital with ... a damaged foot.

Third victim was a Library Aide in Music, also with an injured foot.

WATER WATER

Well, <u>almost</u> everywhere. After the gusher in the women's kitchen came in, we found a new bubbler being installed in the lobby, with the innovation of a little children's level in addition to the higher bubbler, which will relieve a lot of worry about the tiny ones falling off the high block (or being pushed). We hear that four were to be installed on the various floors, but there is still none showing on the second floor level where so many want it. Need we write another letter to Santa?

LUNCHEON

About 30 people attended a luncheon in honor of Joan Sughrue, observing her approaching marriage, on Friday, June 2, at the Oxford Steak House. Joan heard "best wishes" from many of her friends, including the Officers-in-Charge. After her honeymoon, she is planning to come back to the Abbey Room.

AND WEDDING BELLS

On June 10, Joan Sughrue, Division of Reference and Research, married Lawrence Savignano at a Nuptial Mass in St. John The Evangelist Church, North Cambridge. Following their reception at the Kernwood in Malden, the radiant couple left for a Jamaica Honeymoon. They will make their home in North Cambridge upon their return.

WHY DON'T WE ...?

Exercise a little more supervision over new workers, especially with oversize crews coming in for the summer? The noise of teenage chatter drifting out to the Courtyard gives an unfavorable impression of what library "work" involves.

*

Have soap or soap dispenser and towels in each of the broom closets next to the front elevator? Many projects dirty the hands of library workers and much time could be saved if soap, water and towels were available without making the long trip to the staff lavatories. Time may be of the essence especially when a minimum staff is on duty.

*

Include in the Open Shelf catalog, cards for all "Branch Issue only" books? Most titles in the Central Book Stock are duplicated in the Open Shelf collection, but when Open Shelf discontinues its last copy of a title and removes the catalog cards, there is no longer any <u>public</u> record showing that the Library still owns a copy in the B.I. collection.

CREDIT UNION HOURS

Longer office hours have been arranged which were effective May 8, at the Credit Union Office, Room 37, City Hall. The new hours are 9 to 4 daily.

RETIREMENTS

Alberta P. Kneeland

Miss Kneeland retired from the Library on May 31 after nearly 30 years' service. She came to the Library in 1931 and for the past 15 years had been in the Music Department. From April 1954 until August 1960 she was Assistant in Charge. Her good spirits, generosity, quick wit, and ready repartee are a source of delight to all who know her. Her Associates miss her merry ways, her keen appraisal of people, and her devotion to her work.

Miss Kneeland loves books and music and people. We know that she will continue to give pleasure and comfort to others and we wish for her an abundance of good reading and practising - she is a keen violinist - and much happiness in the years to come.

ROBERT P. GIDDINGS

Mary Alice McCarthy

Surprise parties are not always surprises, but Mary Alice McCarthy was truly surprised when, on May 18, she went to the Smorgasbord on Province Street, to join a few friends for dinner. She found thirty-three staff and former staff members gathered to greet her.

When the Kirstein Business Branch was opened in 1930, Miss McCarthy was lured away from Stone and Webster to organize the catalog. Even before the library was opened, she had started to catalog the beginning of the collection. Through the years, the catalog was primarily the product of her work, judgment, and know-how; a catalog completely functional, constantly adapted to needs developed in daily use. It contributed greatly to the reputation for efficient reference service which the Business Branch soon earned.

It was especially gratifying that so many staff members who served in the first years, returned to greet Miss McCarthy on the occasion of her retirement, and to enjoy a reunion.

After a dinner of smorgasbord, followed by fried chicken and desert, Bradford M. Hill gave a short speech, which showed that he had been doing some homework. Miss McCarthy, who had had no opportunity for homework, responded with a few impromptu remarks.

Winifred Root read greetings received from former staffers, from as far distant as Texas. She also read an original poem which recalled some of the high points of the library's history, and managed to mention all KBB staff members who were present, and a few who weren't.

Our gift to Miss McCarthy was a complete breakfast set of blue-and-white earthenware for her new cottage at Kennebunk. Plus a Westinghouse electric coffee percolator.

In her note of thanks, Miss McCarthy said, in part: "...It was a real joy for me to see so many former colleagues, all of whom contributed to making my years at KBB such happy ones.

"As Winifred called the roll in her delightful poem and I saw each one in memory, I realized how fortunate I have been to have worked with so many wonderful people through the years. It has indeed been a great privilege..."

Miss McCarthy's associates also feel that they have been privileged.

WINIFRED F. ROOT

Delia A. Leonard

Honoring her almost thirty years of service in the Library, Delia Leonard, Library Cleaner, was given a double surprise on May 16 by her co-workers and friends. On the way, as she thought, to lunch at a cafeteria, her companion persuaded her to stand a treat at the Darbury Room. It took a little coaxing but they went in and Miss Leonard was quite overwhelmed to find about thirty of her friends gathered to greet her and present her with a lovely corsage. A delicious luncheon was served and for dessert, another surprise: a huge birthday cake, the work of a master of the art, which Miss Leonard had the honor of cutting and serving.

John J. Connolly spoke and thanked Miss Leonard for her many years of faithful service to the Library and presented her with a purse in appreciation. Miss Leonard expressed her thanks briefly with a full heart. It was an enjoyable party filled with reminiscences and good wishes for Miss Leonard in the years ahead.

For the success of this party, the committee, headed by Mary Sands, deserves credit for a job well done.

MARY U. NICHOLS AWARDS

Janet Nicosia was the "North End girl" and Salvator Caruso, the "North End boy" "who in their senior year at a North End High School have excelled in English." As a result, they were the guests of honor at the thirteenth annual presentation of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prize Awards which took place at North End on May eighteenth.

The highlight of the evening for them was the presentation by Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, of two handsomely bound volumes containing special bookplates, designed by Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, Emeritus, to symbolize Miss Nichol's work with puppets. Janet had chosen THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, compiled by Thomas Mark Parrot, and Salvator, BOSTON: A TOPOGRAPHICAL HISTORY, by Walter Muir Whitehill.

Of special interest this year was the coincidence that the author of the history of Boston was also the chief speaker of the evening--a "first" in the history of these awards. Mr. Whitehill gave an informative and authoritative account of the development of the North End Section of Boston, ending with an expression of hope that the projected re-development of Boston will not destroy completely the unique atmosphere of this colorful area.

For the fourth consecutive year, Robert Castagnola presided. Accordian solos were ably rendered by Richard Di Perna of Christopher Columbus High School and the closing remarks were made with compelling sincerity by Fr. Aengus Quinlan, O.F.M., of the same school.

Members of the staff and of the Young Adults Council acted as hosts and hostesses throughout the evening. Delicious refreshments were served during the social hour which followed the program. The punch bowls were presided over by Mrs. Dario Caruso, a North End mother, and Sarah M. Usher, a friend of Mary U. Nichols. During this period it was possible to chat with Mrs. Geraldine S. Herrick, the present Branch Librarian, who had extended a cordial welcome at the beginning of the evening and who is carrying on ably and effectively in the tradition of Mary U. Nichols, who from 1941 to 1949 had brought her own special warmth and friendliness, combined with strength of character and high courage, to her work as Branch Librarian at North End.

SARAH M. USHER

MORE ON STUDENT USE

The worst part of the student use problem has doubtless vanished temporarily with the closing of schools, and we have high hope that the capable Council studying this problem will provide some means of coping more simply with our problems before the school use rush starts in the fall.

We had hoped there would be some partial alleviation of conditions under way, between the time our "Student Use" issue was published in May 1960, and the fall 1960 school opening. It is now a year later and school use has increased considerably during this school season. If the present ratio of increase continues during the coming year, the situation in some departments will be crucial indeed.

*

Six English classes from Boston English were assigned a map of Odysseus' travels. The boys seemed to have no idea where to look and some begged the staffs of General Reference and History to give them one to copy.

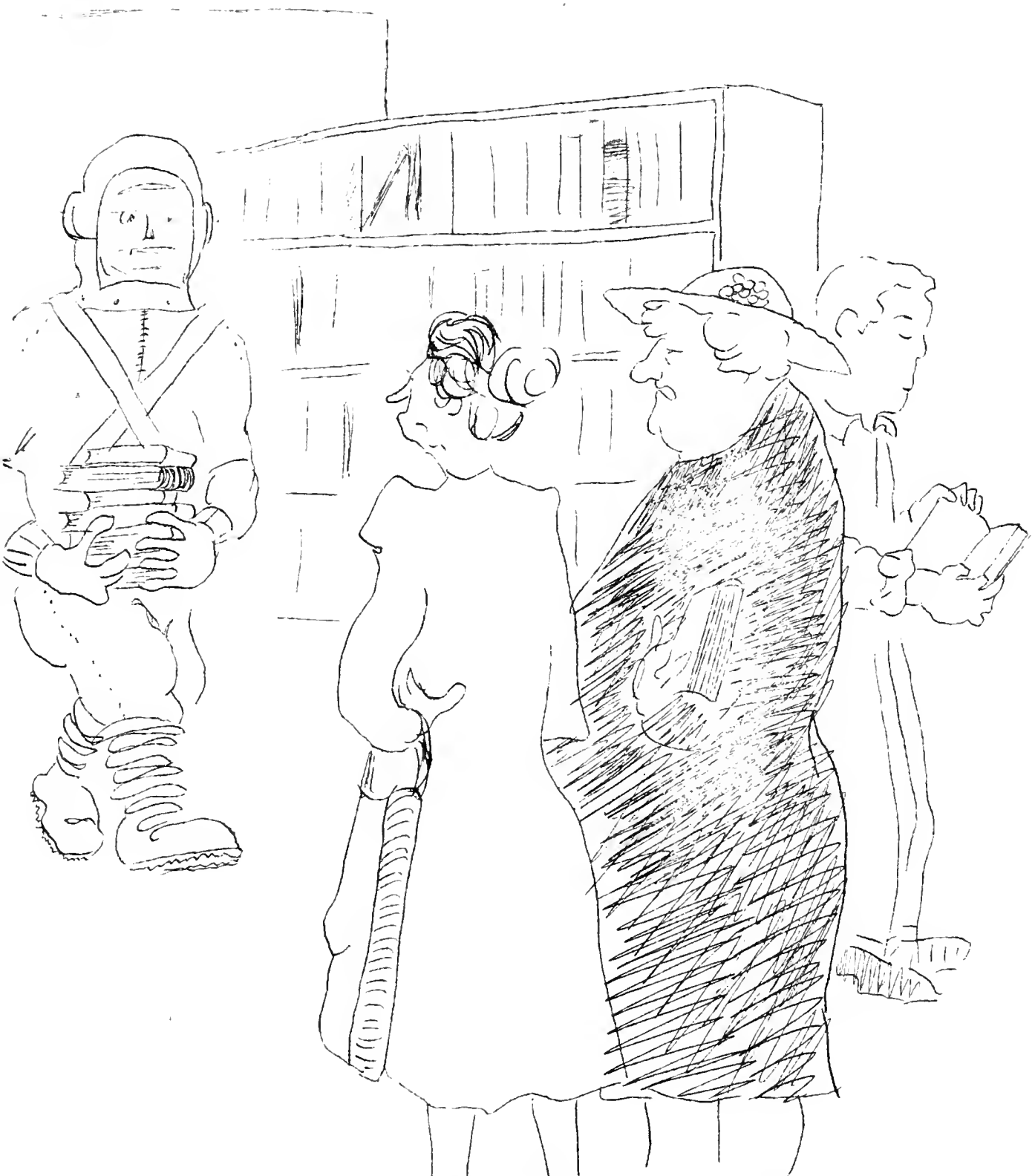
*

Many last-minute book reviews were in demand in Periodical. In many cases, delivery of the bound volumes brought an almost immediate complaint to the Desk that "every book review I send for has been torn out."

*

The LAWRENCE EAGLE of May 24, carried a long account of a meeting held between school and library officials, and members of the Student Council Library Study Committee in Reading, concerning the December ban on all student use of the library for study after 7 p.m. The ban remained unresolved although a solution is hoped for soon after school opening in September.

An analysis of the high school library use questionnaires submitted to the student body was included in the account. Of major interest to our staff is the statement of 154 pupils that they have had to use the facilities of public libraries of other communities, including Boston.



"DID ANYONE EVER ASK YOU WHAT TEN BOOKS YOU'D TAKE ..."

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the MLA took place at the Belmont Hotel, West Harwich, June 8-9. Mrs. Martha Usher White, President of the Cape Cod Library Club welcomed the members.

Under the very able direction of Mrs. Muriel Javelin, the unusual program of this meeting was very productive and rewarding.

Instead of the usual round of speakers, the w hole conference was based on the case method now being used in library science courses at Simmons College. With the cooperation of Kenneth Shaffer (Director of the School of Library Science and of the College Libraries, Simmons) several cases on problems of book selection were made available for use at this meeting.

Participants were divided into small groups according to their interest areas, (adult, young adult, children, hospital, and college). The case provided a meaningful device around which principles and practices of book selection were explored with profit. Although some groups were larger than had been expected, most people participated actively in the discussion.

Each case was not meant to be "solved" but to clarify the issues involved and to show directions that thinking might take should a similar problem occur in actual practice.

RM

Keynote Address

The Keynote Address was delivered by Mrs. Grace T. Stevenson, Deputy Executive Director, ALA.

Speaking on "The Main Chance" Mrs. Stevenson observed that the main chance for librarians to make their mark was in the field of Book Selection. She indicated that there is a necessity for a re-examination of our book selection policies to determine if these are adequate to cope with current needs.

She set forth certain specifications which were vital to an effective book selection policy;

1. A comprehension of what a library should be with emphasis on the library as a source of education.

2. Who is the library going to serve? To answer this requires a knowledge of the community and its needs. A vital book collection should reflect our changing times.

3. How is the library going to be used?

4. The library must stand ready to offer any new or unusual services that will help its citizens find a better life. It has an obligation to the people who pay for the services to keep them fully informed of the facilities that are available for their use.

5. The development of regional cooperation among libraries is a necessary adjunct to improved services.

6. The librarian has the responsibility of maintaining the freedom to read.

In concluding her remarks, Mrs. Stevenson emphasized the fact that the dissipation of any unfavorable image of the librarian rests with the librarian.

WILLIAM CASEY

As there were far too many discussion groups to be adequately covered for this paper, we give resumés of a few, as examples. We regret we were unable to provide full coverage. Participating as leaders or recorders were BPLers: Ervin J. Gaines, Virginia Haviland, Kathleen B. Hegarty, M. Jane Manthorne, Rose Moorachian, Bridie P. Stotz, B. Gertrude Wade.

Young Adults

There were two young adult groups, one led by M. Jane Manthorne (Readers Advisor for Young Adults) with Rose Moorachian (Mattapan) recording, and the other led by Mrs. Bridie Stotz (Adams Street) with Mrs. Louise Newsom (Brockton Public Library) recording.

The young adult case concerned a mother who was quite disturbed when she discovered by accident that her 16 year old daughter had been allowed to take John Steinbeck's THE GRAPES OF WRATH from the public library. She wrote a letter to the head of the Board of Trustees who sent it with a casual note to the librarian. Unsatisfied with the reply from the librarian who cited the library's policy of not "censoring" materials patrons wished to borrow, the mother wrote a letter to the local newspaper saying that she would burn the book publicly unless she was given an explanation and an apology from the Trustee.

Each group discussed many facets of this case for two hours on Thursday, Friday a joint discussion of both groups

carried the discussion further.

The main points cited were that both the trustee and the librarian had failed to gauge the importance of the mother's original complaint. Poor communication between the librarian and the mother had resulted in irritating her even more. Most people felt that the librarian should have had a personal talk with the mother at that point. A written book selection policy that could be cited in cases like this one would have helped also. The library's public relations seemed to be at fault in that the paper did not check with the library before publishing the mother's letter nor did the library get in touch with the newspaper to present their side of the issue. One group pointed out that although the book was on a high school reading list and available in the high school library, the mother was attacking only the public library and that this might indicate a greater prestige of the teacher and the school in the community. Parents responsibility for their children's reading was another issue mentioned in the discussion, although there was not enough time for a full exploration. The tangent issue of whether or not the public library should be required to provide all books on a school reading list provided some lively moments.

The group felt as a whole that even though there had been disagreement on specific points and the case was not really "solved", each participant had learned a great deal.

ROSE MOORACHIAN

Children's

The Children's Librarians, in two groups, discussed the impact of school assignments on their book selection policies. Capable leaders were our Readers Advisor, Virginia Haviland, and a former BPL member, Hope Brown, now of the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension.

In short order the consensus was reached that it just is not feasible or practical for the Public Library to attempt to provide from its limited budget, an increasing number of books solely to satisfy the demand for numerous (in one case ten!) sources of information (exclusive of encyclopedias) on a given subject.

Solutions to this problem included the formulation of a Book Selection Policy approved by the Director and Board of Trustees, the wide dissemination of this policy so that it is known to all segments of the community, and so that the reasons underlying it may become known also. Public relations media such as the Denver Public Library's pamphlet PARTNERS IN EDUCATION might be worthy of imitation and distribution elsewhere.

Many related problems such as policy in regard to series books, gifts to the Library etc., were also introduced. In each case the participants emphasized the need for maintaining high standards in the quality and content of our book collection in order to foster development of discriminating readers, who read for pleasure as well as information, to develop insights of mind and spirit, thus enriching their imagination, forming taste and character through exposure to these influences in books of artistic and literary merit.

ANNE ARMSTRONG

Trustee - Librarian Relations

Under the topic, Trustee - Public librarian relationships in book selection situations, the case study method used in evaluating book selection policy was the "Fisher Method", so-called because of an article by Dorothy C. Fisher relating how the actual decisions as to what books were to be added to the library's collection were made by a group of trustees in a town of 1400 in Vermont. This article served as ammunition for one of the trustees in a community of 47,000.

The varied and highly representative discussion group went quickly to the heart of the matter. Obviously, book selection was not being done properly. The basic difficulty was the librarian, limited, inadequate, kow-towing to trustees, and especially to her trustee - book committee of two, partisan, parochial, interested in sociability. The trustees were also at fault - for permitting the situation to continue, for non-enforcement of the written book selection policy, for general misinterpretation of their function.

The group was aided in possible solutions by the second part of the case study in which a trained, forceful, diplomatic young man was favorably interviewed by the trustees for the directorship. How would he deal with the existing situation? He

could appoint a book committee from the staff; have the trustees purely in an advisory capacity; have joint committee of staff and trustees; present a list and stand one's ground; wean away the helpful citizens to another committee. Most important of all, he could educate his trustees - build up confidence in the librarian.

General conclusions reached were as follows: the trustees are responsible for the library and its holdings, its broad concepts of policy. One of their most important functions is to select a competent, professional librarian, who will work with the trustees, not for them. A written book selection policy worked out and enforced by trustees and librarian is highly desirable. In short, trustees bring broad perspectives to things, while the role of the librarian is telescopic.

ENC

Film Session

Participating in the Thursday evening panel discussion on "The Library and Films: Selection? Censorship?" were: Robert E. Segal, Executive Director, Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston; Mrs. Grace T. Stevenson, Deputy Executive Director, ALA; Dr. Melvin Brodshaug, Dean of the School of Public Relations and Communications, Boston University, and Marshall Kaplan, Teacher of History, Milton Academy. Dr. Malcolm S. Knowles, Associate Professor of Adult Education, Boston University, acted as moderator.

Serving as a springboard for discussion of general film selection principles and representing an example of controversial material, was the motion picture OPERATION ABOLITION. This film has aroused mixed reaction because of its presentation of the San Francisco rioting which accompanied the House Un-American Activities hearings last year.

After viewing the film, the panel discussed the responsibility of the library to provide film material on all points of view, and to indicate whether a film is biased. Because films have a special and subtle impact, it was considered especially important to determine their factual accuracy. Technical quality was emphasized as another important criteria. The panel completed its discussion (which included audience participation) with a general agreement that a film should never be censored out of a collection merely because of its point of view.

KATHLEEN B. HEGARTY

Installation

At the luncheon meeting on Friday, Mrs. Muriel Javelin was installed as President of the Massachusetts Library Association for the coming year. We join all the members of MLA in wishing Mrs. Javelin a distinguished term of office marked by the same kind of constructive, forward looking guidance that marked the successful Meeting so many of us enjoyed.

YOUNG ADULTS START SUMMER READING

Young adults come to Open Shelf from all parts of the city and adjacent areas to find books for summer reading. In the Young Adult section they will find shelves reserved, where books on their lists have been assembled to facilitate service and give the prospective readers a chance to look over the books before making a choice. A few schools regularly send copies of their lists to the Young Adult section; others are contributed - sometimes laboriously copied for us - by generous young patrons. Books are daily being collected from all sections of Open Shelf, including the Children's Room. Even this early, boys and girls from Boston College High, both Latin schools, Catholic Memorial, Cathedral, St. Thomas Aquinas, Roxbury Latin, Fontbonne, Brimmer-May, Beaver Country Day and others have walked hopefully into Open Shelf, the LIST in hand. With the whole staff aiding and abetting, it is hoped that every boy and girl will have fulfilled his requirements before Labor Day, with some maybe more pleasant wanderings in other books along the way.

HELEN N. BICKFORD

MISSING MIKE

Something is missing in the courtyard! The flowers are blooming brightly and there are men at work setting out plants and keeping this little rectangle a beauty spot. But, the familiar figure of Mike Sullivan - whose "green thumb" brought this one-time barren spot to life a few years ago - is missing. The question is comstantly asked, "Where's Mike Sullivan this year?" It is the hope of his many friends that his health is im-

proving so that he will be back in "his" courtyard before too many more days have passed.

MRS. MARY V. DIETRICKSON

The death of Mrs. Mary V. Dietrickson on Tuesday, June 6, ended a career of extraordinary accomplishment in library service. We of the Boston Public Library remember her as the organizer and first librarian of the Kirstein Business Branch, the capstone of a long and distinguished career.

She prepared for her work at the University of Wisconsin, graduating from the Library School in 1909; was Public Librarian at Wausau Wisconsin 1910; Assistant Reference Librarian, Denver Public Library 1911; Assistant Legislative Reference Librarian of Wisconsin State Library, 1912-1914; organized and was the Librarian of the Business and Municipal Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library, 1914-1927. When her husband was named professor at MIT, they came to Boston and she was Reference Assistant, Baker Library (Harvard Business School), 1927-28.

Her association with the BPL began in 1929 when she was named Chief of the Statistical Department. She was assigned to the work of organizing the Kirstein Business Branch, the generous gift of Louis E. Kirstein, which opened in 1930. The venture was a success from the start and it soon became the busiest library of its type, in terms of people served, in the country. As Business Branch Librarian, Mrs. Dietrickson won the praise of all who used the library, for she and her staff never gave up on a question. She had an exceptional power of systematic organization. "To be useful, the information must be ready when it is wanted."

She was proud of her staff and the efforts they made to learn as many business subjects as possible in order to give better service. Anyone seriously seeking information was helped as much as resources allowed. During the depression, every source of employment was compiled by the staff, and this was much appreciated by those seeking work. After World War II, returning veterans were greatly aided in their search for business opportunities.

On her retirement in 1948 she remarked, "If I was going to start over again, I'd take up the same kind of work." For her the work was important - and it is a rare tribute to her achievement that the work she zealously developed in its early days goes on - giving testimony to the solid work of foundation and organization on her part.

MARGARET M. MCGOVERN

We were saddened to learn of the death of Margaret M. McGovern on May 21. Many of us remember her as a cheerful energetic person who loved to travel and had an extensive collection of china elephants.

Miss McGovern first entered the library service an an extra at Charlestown. She held degrees from Salem Normal and Simmons College.

She began her professional career in 1916, serving at Charlestown, Neponset and then at Memorial from July 1938 until her retirement in April 1952.

THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF THE BPLSA?

Several times a year the members of the BPLSA are invited to social gatherings. Along with enjoying a stimulating program, we get a chance to know each other, leaving aside the barriers of rank, department, and division, to exchange ideas, professional or otherwise, and to swap those diets we're starting to-morrow, while relishing the delicious refreshments served by the Entertainment Committee. Why not join the Staff Association and get better acquainted?

OLLIE PARTRIDGE
Member of the Membership and Hospitality Committee

CHARLES RIVER LIBRARY CLUB

An invitation has been received for the Staff Association by our President from Elizabeth J. Hodges, President of the Charles River Library Club, inviting the Staff of the BPL to join this regional library club.

Present annual dues are seventy-five cents per member, although a raise to one dollar is to be voted on at the Fall meeting.

The club meets twice a year, fall and spring. Its membership comes from many libraries in Greater Boston. Our Director is already a member, and the club would like to see more of us in its membership.

THEIR BRAINS ARE SHO'ING!

June is the month of graduates as well as brides, and with graduations go honors. BPL employees did rather well, as this partial list will show. Next month we will print those we did not hear about in time for this issue, if you will notify us. Congratulations to you all!

Mattapan

James Gallivan, Library Aide, Boston Latin, has won a five hundred dollar scholarship to Northeatern, where he will major in chemistry.

*

Rena Fisher, Jeremiah Burke, member of the National Honor Society, winner of TIME current events contest, has won a four year scholarship of six hundred dollars a year to Boston University's College of Liberal Arts. She too is a Library Aide.

*

Library Aide and also from Jeremiah Burke, Ann Kuperman, is going to Newton Junior College where she will major in sciences before transferring to another college to prepare for a career in biology research. Ann was President of the vocational Biology Club, a member of the Senior Advisory Board, and won Honors in the Convocation in Spanish this past year.

*

Barbara Lee Triber, Library Aide, was Vice-President of the Honor Society at Hyde Park, a member of the Mattapan Young Adults Council, and won two scholarships. She will attend Lesley in the fall.

*

Michael Berman, Library Aide, also from Hyde Park, was awarded a five hundred dollar scholarship to Northeastern.

*

Jean Raczko, Library Aide and Hyde Park, received a Home and School scholarship and also one from Emmanuel.

Information Office

Diane R. Dondale, BA in Social Science, Emmanuel, won a full scholarship to St. Louis University, School of Social Service.

*

Marian McCarthy, won the Perrin Award for excellence in German at Boston University, College of Liberal Arts.

Open Shelf

Richard Bowes, Library Aide, Hyde Park, won a partial scholarship to Boston University

*

Donald Griffin, Library Aide, Cathedral, won a full scholarship to Boston College.

Periodical and Newspaper

Hugh McNeil, Library Aide, Boston College High, won a partical scholarship to Boston College.

*

Michael V. Casper, Library Aide, Boston College High, member of the Honor Society, won both the Gold Medal for Classics and the First Award in German.

*

David E. Costs, Library Aide, was admitted to the Honor Society at Boston College High.

Central Charging Records

Arthur DiMattea, Boston Latin and a Library Aide, $200 towards college costs at the college of his choice. He will attend Boston College.

POOL USE

Another courtyard event was added last Thursday afternoon to the list of unexpected events surrounding the history of our fountain-pool - the furore created by McMonnies Bacchante, the shock of the staff engendered by the staff member who once held an after-hours swimming and drinking party, destroying newly seeded lawn in the process (he was an ex by 9 a.m.), the surprise at the two elderly ladies who removed shoes and stockings and dangled their overheated feet to cool, and the man who washed his socks therein - when two small boys, aged 5 and 7, and a girl of 8, decided it was a swimming pool.

While courtyard readers watched in envy, the children had a beautiful time, until first a Custodian, then an Officer, arrived to wring out their clothes (by this time the 5 year old was delightfully naked and prancing on the rim of the pool) and spoil their swim. They could not understand why they could not swim there. Perhaps it should be permitted? Staff too?

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Editor:

Much as we appreciate the improvement in the Soap Situation, let us not forget that there are some who would like a more solid cleanser. Could we not have whole cakes of soap at the sinks that are uncrowned with a liquid dispenser?

DIRTY ELBOWS

Dear Soap Box:

The WHY DON'T WE ?... column last month mentioned the lack of soap in the staff quarters and requested that ground soap be dispensed (in the dispensers already installed in the ladies' powder room at least?) if full size cakes could not be supplied. We now may wash - which is an improvement - but the liquid soap:

1. smells on hands for hours after
2. does not get one clean without using a huge amount (if then)
3. causes roughened skin

Please can't we have some soap?

ALLIGATOR-SKIN HANDS

Dear Soapbox:

Nothing has been heard from the Orientation Council. Is it still working, or what?

DISORIENTATED

Dear Editor:

In case no one has noticed, we need more room here and there. Since the influx of staff, it is getting so lunchtimes are just one mad scramble for seats in the Staff Library, lounges and Coffee Shop. When winter comes, will we (oldsters) be left behind?

BRUISED

Dear Soap Box:

When the new water bubblers were installed how come one was not installed on the second floor convenient to Bates Hall, our Main Reading Room, and to the Public Card Catalog. There is a water pipe available near the elevator and the bubbler removed from the first floor is still in good working order. I am sure that both public and staff would be grateful during the long hot summer.

HOT AND DUSTY

Dear Saopbox:

The Personnel Manual (Section 313.01) states there are 12 1/2 scheduled paid holidays annually; included in the list is June 17. Yet, June 17 is not a paid holiday this year. If some other Library rule governs this situation, then it conflicts with the Manual.

CONFUSED

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Vera L. Cheves	Catalog and Classification, HRS
Mary Colpas	Egleston Square Branch
Ruth Conroy	Codman Square Branch
Elizabeth Drane	General Reference Dept.
Harold Hammond	Catalog and Classification HRS.
Edward J. Montana, Chairman	Periodical and Newspaper Dept.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rhoda Blacker	Mattapan Branch
Barbara Coffey	Catalog and Classification, HRS
Elinor Conley	Dorchester Branch
Corinne Henderson	Central Charging Records
Lloyd Jameson	Government Documents
Catherine MacDonald	Personnel Office
Louisa Metcalf	Open Shelf Dept.
Pauline Murphy	Book Stack Service, H. R. S.
Mary Sheehan	Book Purchasing Dept.
Muriel C. Javelin, Chairman	Division Office, H. R. S.

SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Jean Babcock	Division Office, R & RS
Ruth Conroy	Codman Square
Dorothy Ekstrom	Adams Street
Louis O'Halloran, Chairman	Division Office, HR & CS

URGENT

The Nominating Committee is meeting on June 16. Will you please send to any of the members any suggestions you have for officers of the Association for 1962.

MURIEL C. JAVELIN
Chairman, Nominating Committee

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Scholarship Awards
for Study at Library Schools
during the twelve months dating from
July 1, 1961

$200 each

Mrs Vera L. Cheves
Cataloger and Classifier
Cataloging and Classification Department
Division of Home Reading and Community
Services
Joseph H. Center Scholarship

Arthur V. Curley
Pre-Professional Library Assistant
Open Shelf Department
Daniel Sharp Ford Scholarship

Irene M. Mains
Children's Librarian
North End Branch Library
Alfred Hemenway Scholarship

Mary W. Wallace
Pre-Professional Library Assistant
Music Department
Francis Skinner Scholarship

T H E Q U E S T I O N M A R K

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 7 July 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Sarah M. Usher, Indexer, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

With talk of inventories, new catalogs, and even new buildings in the air, it seems that the B.P.L. is catching up with, and even outdistancing, many long-standing problems that have obstructed maximum service. To take advantage of this progressive spirit, the Question Mark has undertaken a surface study of one important aspect of our service to readers - the B.P.L. catalogs.

Many staff members, as well as patrons, have voiced dissatisfaction with parts of the present situation. Even the staff does not always know the location of all the catalogs, or what is or is not included in each. The patron cannot possibly know, and often goes away believing that the Library does not own a particular book which may be right on shelf. Now that we are approaching a shift in our thinking, owing to the impact of state aid and regional considerations, should we not pause and consider this problem, or series of problems, before it becomes further involved?

The Q.M. intends no criticism, but simply consideration, of the situation. What do we have to work with, and what changes might make our basic catalogs more useful to all? What can be done, perhaps by stages, to improve effectiveness, taking into full account staff shortages, present and future, in relation to the magnitude of the work? The summer projects are a fine beginning, and we hope they will be the first steps in a long-range program.

Remembering that our materials are useless unless the catalogs can direct a patron to what he needs in the shortest possible time, with a minimum of help from an increasingly busy staff, we believe that a study should be made of what each catalog does to aid the patron and where each fails him.

In hopes of stimulating discussion, and perhaps eventually an official study, the Publications Committee has interviewed several staff members in departments dealing directly with the public. And, on the following pages, we present these staff comments on our catalogs, in the belief that it is one of the duties of the Question Mark to raise questions on topics of importance to the Library.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

THE B.P.L. CATALOGS

The following comments, on the catalog situation, have been offered by members of the staff in public departments.

In all departments of the Reference Division, with the exception of Music, the catalogs referred to are basically auxiliary catalogs - the cards are duplicates of corresponding entries in the General Reference Catalog.

History

Catalog was set up, along with the department, in 1937 - during the period of conversion to L.C. classification. The catalog today includes post-1937 acquisitions (L.C.) plus older materials that have been reclassified. There is a large body of History materials, still bearing old B.P.L. numbers, which is not represented in the History catalog.

For many topics, both History and General Reference catalogs must be used (e.g., Communism as an ideology - Social Science; Communism in Russia - History).

Filing rules are modified to suit the subject. And, space is a luxury.

Science and Technology

Catalog represents materials in the fields of Technology, Physics and Chemistry; students of other branches of science must use the General Reference catalog.

The catalog is not complete, especially for pre-1920 titles, and so, for older titles, earlier editions, etc., the official catalog must be checked - a time-consuming process. Space is a big problem: an additional section has had to be tacked on in home-made fashion. Filing by many different persons, without uniform rules, has had the expected results.

Since 1940, an additional catalog (not public) has been maintained for science materials put on the L.C. classification.

Government Documents and Social Sciences

This important department draws many serious patrons to its corner of the courtyard; but, those consulting the catalog for material in the Social Sciences other than Economics will have to go back to Bates Hall. The distance from the General Reference catalog is an obvious inconvenience. An overcrowded catalog case has long troubled an already busy staff.

Periodical and Newspaper

Planned as a complete listing of serial holdings in the BPL (eventually), basic catalog was compiled from obvious subject headings in Official Catalog, augmented by titles from UNION LIST OF SERIALS, now added to by selection of classes from cards sent to us by Catalog Dept. Lack of space limits classes to be included. It is impossible to be certain it will ever be truly complete owing to difficulty in locating all serial titles in other catalogs.

Does not include at present government documents as such, United Nations publications, newspapers, analytics, and many titles for directories, yearbooks, society reports, etc. Cards are also lacking for many of the reference books housed in the department.

Filing system is baffling as so many have done filing, but is no more so than the alphabetizing found in other catalogs in the building.

Ceased publication notes, NEDL stamps, and late informational notes have not been added; closed system of former serials cataloging has not been changed in common with most of the departmental catalogs.

Directional signs stating catalog was incomplete and referring patron to desk have recently disappeared.

Fine Arts

The Fine Arts catalog is especially noteworthy in that it has its own classification scheme. Both the old B.P.L. classification and a system of three-part numbers (devised by a former department head) are to be found in this card case.

In addition to Fine Arts material, the catalog includes portions of other fields - such as archeology, city planning, history, and descriptive material on various countries - which are of supplementary value.

Music

Cards in this catalog unlike those in other departments are not duplicated in the General Reference catalog, except for some old entries.

Includes materials in the field of music except new books on the dance, which LC classes in GV. The older dance books are in the Music Dept. under BPL numbers along with new books on the dance which emphasize music. (e.g., folk dance music)

Older BPL cards are interfiled with LC cards. As subject headings differ in the two systems, it is often necessary to look in two places for the material (e.g. Chamber music-BPL system; but string ensembles, sonatas, etc.-LC)

Material in the famous Brown collection was easily distinguished under the BPL system, but under LC the same symbol applies to other non-circulating items.

There remains a large number of temporary cards - some twenty years old - for which regular cards were not printed owing to financial problems at the time.

General Reference Catalog

This is the core catalog for the Reference & Research Division, but may we stress, it is not a union catalog - neither of the Division nor of the Library. Unfortunately, its size leads people to assume that it is so. (It will be expanded 50% during next year in size - but it is not to become a union catalog.) It includes no manuscripts, newspapers, or music materials.

The General Reference Dept. is responsible for its interpretation and use but not for its physical upkeep. Inaccuracies have resulted from variant filing rules and from filing by non-professionals. In a large catalog, especially one with two different systems of subject headings, a library aid should not be filing. Stack serials have not been kept up to date and considerable time is spent following up an open entry.

A long time lag (sometimes 6-8 months) occurs between the purchase of a book and its representation in the General Reference Catalog by a full set of cards.

H. R. S.

In the Central Library, the Open Shelf catalog is the main public record of HRS holdings. In addition to the O.S. collection, this catalog indicates some (but not all) books purchased by Branch Issue. However, if a title is discontinued by Open Shelf, but retained by Branch Issue, there is no longer any public indication that the library still owns the book.

Catalogs in the Branches are, of course listings of the holdings of that unit only; requests for titles not owned by the Branch will be forwarded, if the patron desires, to Branch Issue - but with no indication of whether the library owns the book.

The union catalog, in the Catalog and Classification Dept. HRS is the only comprehensive listing of HRS holdings, but it is not available to the public.

*

We conclude with a few samples of the many suggestions offered by staff members interviewed:

In some subject departments, current, up-to-date catalogs of recent accessions (say, 5-10 years) would prove most valuable.

Provide signs indicating that the Open Shelf and General Reference catalogs represent different collections.

Filing, especially in large catalogs, should be done only by trained professionals, or by such others as have had sufficient training and experience, but never by a Library Aide.

Bring serial entries and open entries up-to-date.

Consider, as a future possibility, a Union catalog of all B. P. L. holdings.

Institute uniform filing rules in all departments.

Include in the rebuilt General Reference catalog: holdings of the Music Department and perhaps, at a future date, even Branch Issue and Open Shelf materials.

Place conspicuous signs on or near each departmental catalog, stating exactly what it contains and where to go for supplementary material.

Make General Reference catalog an all-Reference Division catalog and Open Shelf catalog an all-Home Reading division catalog, with conspicuous directions from one to the other.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The job analysis information booklet just published is one of the first steps in the job evaluation study now in progress in the Library. It is a concise statement of what is meant by job evaluation and classification and what is hoped to be accomplished. It is an attractive and informative booklet and those concerned are to be congratulated in getting the study off to such an excellent beginning.

The Staff Association's Special Services Committee has been hard at work on an up-to-date discount list. Thanks to Mr. O'Halloran and his committee this list should be ready in the late summer.

In their efforts to provide opportunities for Library officers to have wider library contacts and experience, the Library Trustees and the Director have made it possible for several Library officers to attend the ALA Conference through grants that will more or less cover travel expenses. The president of the Staff Association was one of those receiving grants. Naturally, the Staff Organization Round Table Meeting will be included in my program.

RUTH M. HAYES

ATTENDED ALA

Marjorie A. Brown, Cat. & Class. - RRS
John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian - HRCS
G. Florence Connolly, Fine Arts
Eleanor F. Halligan, Gen. Reference
Virginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for Children
Ruth M. Hayes, Branch Lib'n, Adams St.
Bradford M. Hill, Acting Chief Lib.?- RRS
Muriel C. Javelin, Dep. Sup. - Adults
Rosalie A. Lang, Chief, Gen Reference
Catherine M. MacDonald, Personnel Off.
Francis X. Moloney, Asst. Director Information
Rose Moorachian, Mattapan Branch
Mildred G. O'Connor, Coordinator of the Social Sciences
Alice M. Waters, Govt. Documents
Elizabeth L. Wright, Asst. to the Director

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs. Janet F. Anderson, Adams Street
John P. Calos, Book Stack Service
Julie Chevalier, Adams Street
Ernest A. DiMattia, Science & Tech.
Patricia A. Ewasco, Mattapan
Barbara Epstein, Division Off. - RRS
Elizabeth N. Green, Rare Book
Mrs. Gale Golden, Dorchester
Mrs. Louise R. Goldschmidt, Parker Hill
Barbara McManus, Kirstein
Janice A. Maniscalco, Rare Book
Gerald F. McDonald, Fine Arts
Janet R. Stearns, Education
Ann B. Stein, Music
Alice M. Wheeler, Cat. & . Class. -RRS
John P. Rice, Book Stack Service
Roxolana A. Yarmovych, Cat. & Class-RRS

Transferred

Julie Chevalier, Adams Street to Egleston Square
Patricia A. Ewasco, Mattapan to North End
Jeanne M. Fitzgerald, Science & Tech. to Kirstein

Resigned

Joan Abbe, West Roxbury, to study in Europe
William C. Callahan, Central Charging Records, to obtain another position, at Logan International Airport
John A. Gilmore, Government Documents
Adrienne C. deVergie, Charlestown, to attend Simmons full-time
Paul McDevitt, Book Stack Service, ill health
Thomas Moroney, Book Stack Service, to go into the service

Summer Projects

Book Preparation

Maureen McDevitt, formerly part-time Open Shelf, State College of Boston, Sophomore

Cataloging and Classification, R&RS

Rosemary Doyle, formerly part-time Brighton, Salem State College, Sophomore
Pearl Owens, graduate of State Teachers College

Book Stack Service

Charles A. Berkebile, BU, grad.
Lewis A. Burleigh, Harvard, Junior
Paul W. Frost, U of Mass., Junior
Ronald S. Gillis, formerly part-time Fine Arts, BU, Sophomore
Kevin M. McGrath, Harvard, Freshman
Charles C. Nickerson, Harvard, grad.
Joseph J. Stern, Harvard, grad.
John J. Walsh, Harvard, Freshman
Kenneth I. Winston, Harvard, Junior
John K. Yost, Harvard, grad.

WHO'S NEW?

Paul F. Grady has joined the Book Stack Service staff. Paul lives in Dorchester and has just graduated from Dorchester High.

Richard Dumont, who has just graduated from Boston Latin School, is working in Central Charging Records. Dick is from Charlestown. At school he was particularly interested in track and ran the 220 and 440 yard dashes.

Hugh T. McDonagh is an old hand in Government Documents and Social Sciences where he has now joined the full time staff. A Senior at Boston State College, Hugh is preparing to teach History at the Junior High level. His interests include music, historical novels, and bowling!

Book Stack Service's James J. Greene is a graduate of Boston English. Jim is from Dorchester and one of his hobbies is a coin collection. He is going to attend the University of New Mexico where he plans to take a pre-law program.

Patricia M. Murray, who has just graduated from St. Clare's, is working in the Business Office. Pat, who has worked as a receptionist-secretary at the Hotel Avery, is now commuting from Roxbury to the BPL. Her hobbies include collecting records.

Book Preparation's Paul J. Dillen is from Dorchester. Paul is a June graduate of Dorchester High, and one of his main interests is sports. He played baseball and football at school!

Roger A. Rainville is the new pre-professional in Cataloging, HR&CS. From New Hampshire, Roger attended St. Anselm's where he was in a teacher preparatory program in History. He is now working towards his MA in education at BU, and, for one form of relaxation, he enjoys light music.

Periodical and Newspaper's Thomas J. McDonough commutes from Dorchester. Tom has just graduated from Boston English where he was in a college preparatory program.

Nancy Ann Unis, Mt. Bowdoin, is midway in the education course, being currently a Junior in BU's College of Liberal Arts. Her interests include drawing, painting, and her major, Psychology. Five years experience working in the BU Library at the School of Education has given Nancy a foundation for her present task.

Kathleen H. Jaime, Washington Village, is a recent graduate of Jamaica Plain High School and will be continuing on to college in the fall. She is engaged and plans to marry in another year. The lucky fellow is Raymond MacWilliam of the Green Shoe Co. Kathleen's hobbies are dancing and --- stock cars!

WHY DON'T WE ...?

Purchase paperbacks, where possible, to fill multiple requests for popular titles of transient value. This would save money on the purchase price, and the duplicates could be discarded when demand wanes instead of cluttering the shelves.

Put more chairs in the Courtyard.

You can get more for your pennies when you give them to CARE.

ENGAGEMENT

Lorraine F. Hepburn , Bookmobile, to Joseph Barnes. The wedding will take place on Saturday, August 5.

WEDDINGS

On Friday, June 30th, Mrs. Marjorie G. Bouquet, Coordinator of the Arts and Curator of the Picture Collection, was married to John Webster Buck at the First Church of Christ at Wethersfield, Conn. The wedding was followed by a reception for members of the two families at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson, the sister and brother-in-law of the groom.

Beginning sometime in mid-August, when Mrs. Buck's resignation becomes effective, the couple will live in the home built by the groom's family in 1776 in Wethersfield a town in which the bride's ancestors also lived in the early nineteenth century.

The couple spent their honeymoon touring the Connecticut Valley region.

May C. McDonald, Bookmobiles, was married June 20 to Charles E. Burke at St. Thomas More Church in Braintree.

Mr. Burke has been employed by the Standard Oil Company for 35 years. He is (that is, was) a widower with five children and six grandchildren. Both of his daughters and two of his sons are married. Expectations are that May will become a grandmother before her first anniversary. One son is in the Air Force, and of the two boys at home, one is in high school and the other attends Northeastern.

The Burkes honeymooned at Bar Harbor, Maine. After ten days of married life, May went to the hospital with an old ailment, Tenosis synevitis by name. When interviewed Mrs. Burke said, "Just say I got married and I've been in stitches ever since". So, we did!

STORK TALK

Congratulations to the Peltiers on the June 17th arrival of Melissa Jo. She has made an excellent choice of parents in Ed (Audio-Visual) and Felicia (formerly City Point, Roslindale, Audio-Visual, and Open Shelf). Melissa has already been on a triumphal tour of the Library.

JINGLE BELLS IN JUNE

Christmas may come once a year to many, but not so at the Roslindale Branch Library. Beginning a new precedent, the staff celebrated with a Christmas Party - on June third!

The weather was warm and delightful, so we journeyed to the Lord Fox to dine from a buffet well-laden in the best tradition of a bountiful holiday board. Automobiles, not sleighs were our means of transportation. Green grass and red flowers all around, not snowy white was the timely color scheme. Our dress was light and flowery, not intended to keep us warm.

Joining us in celebration were good friends Louise McGurk, Marie Coleman, Ellen Richwagen, and Peggy Lyons.

Full of good food and good cheer, we parted with hearty wishes for "A Happy New Year" and the conviction that our Christmas Party had been delightful.

BY THE SEA

On the traditional gathering date of June 17, the Chowder, Chatter, and Marching Society summoned members from near and far for a gleeful day of chowdering, chattering, and marching at Duxbury Beach Park.

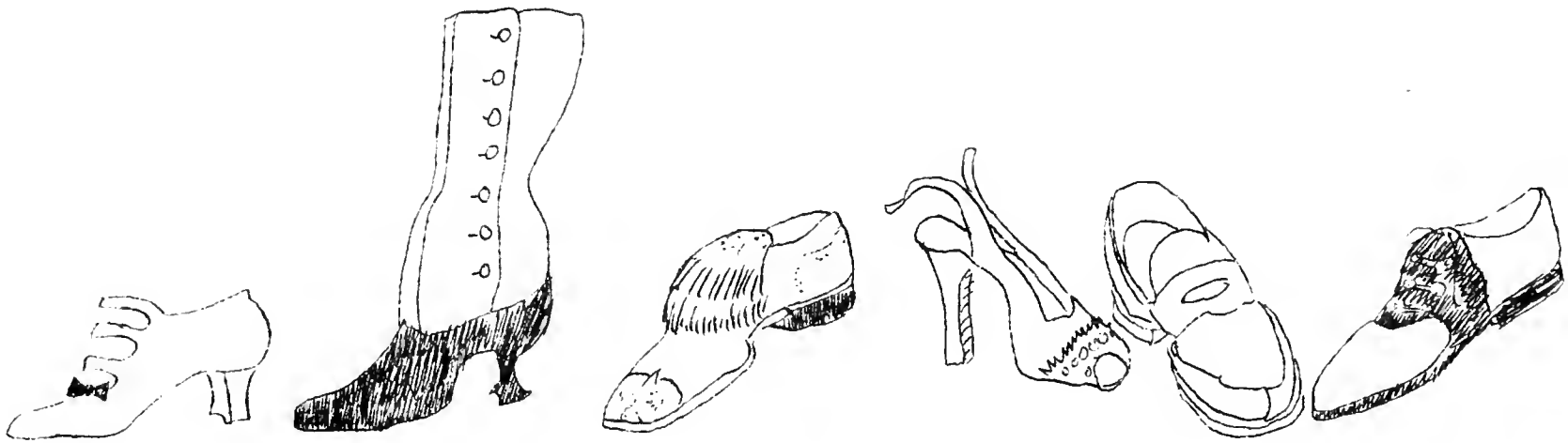
As usual, the picnicers were too warm for the water. Although, a few of the more juvenile adults did venture into the surf (buddy-system, of course) amid cheers from the beach-crowd, only to return blue-faced to the fireside; still others compromised by a dip in a nearby swamp.

As an addition to the scheduled frolic, the traditionally unathletic library crowd engaged, amid jeers of "beach-pests", in a clumsy softball hassle. Other good-time-for-all events included toasting kiddies dipped in marshmellow plus a demonstration of how not to set up a tent.

Something new was added this year to the Bunker Hill Day parade in Charlestown. Bookmobile III in all its glory proudly took part in the celebration. And of course we must extend thanks to our wonderful driver Carl Pearson.

During the week of the ALA Convention a Cleveland librarian was visiting the BPL.

THE SHOE-SHELF IN THE STACKS—



(HOW IT'S CHANGED)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to Grace Marvin, Book Selection - HRS for being a prize winner on the Name the Place program on WNAC. Since "the place" cited on the program during the week of June 19th, the day Miss Marvin won, was the Boston Public Library, she had little difficulty in giving the right identification. That, however, was not the complete requirement another was the writing of an essay on " "Why I depend on WNAC". It was the combination of place-identification and the outstanding essay which qualified Miss Marvin as the winner of a clock-transistor radio valued at $59.95.

Chief Petty Officer Jane Manthorne, on her recent two weeks of active duty, attended the Instructors' School at the U. S. Naval Air Station, South Weymouth. At the graduation ceremonies, two prizes were awarded: (1) to the best speaker, and (2) to the enlisted "man" with the highest grades. From a group of 70 men, 2 women, Jane emerged as the winner of both awards.

On May 12, Mr. and Mrs. Max Anapole saw their son, Steven, named Freshman of the Year at B.U.'s College of Liberal Arts' annual "Recognition and Installation Night". Steven was given a gold key in recognition of his contributions during his Freshman year, which included serving on the Executive Boards of the Freshman Class and the Student Council. Steven was also installed as the Sophomore representative to the Student Council.

MORE BRAINS SHOWING

Adding to the list published last month are:
Joseph Lucas, Government Documents and Social Sciences, has won, upon graduation from Jamaica Plain High School, 4 scholarships totaling $1150.00, to the Univ. of Mass. (He has decided to forego a $400.00 scholarship to the Univ. of Maine.)

Gerald Nash, Science and Technology, and a Junior at B.C. High: Gold medal - Classics, Second prize - Mathematics, First Prize - French, First honor cards for every marking period, and a final average of 96%.

CLARA L. MAXWELL, 1874-1961

Clara Louise Maxwell was born in Brooklyn on February 15, 1874. When her family moved to Boston she attended the then Girls' High and Normal School on West Newton Street, just a short block from her home. From early childhood her health had been frail, so upon completion of her school life she remained at home until her father's death.

The first World War saw many women leave the security of home life to join the ranks of the employed, and Clara Maxwell was among them. On Oct. 10, 1916 she entered the service of the Boston Public Library, a most genteel occupation for a lady. Most of her library career was spent at the South End Branch, with a short time at Charlestown Branch. On July 1, 1930 she succeeded Miss Margaret Sheridan as Branch Librarian.

The depression years of the '30's were busy and trying ones for a woman of great sensitivity, but her healthy sense of humor helped her greatly. She often said that she seemed to have an affinity for the down-at-heel and the unfortunate of the district. And no matter how disreputable looking they were, they were always given a sweet smile and a softly spoken greeting.

At the end of February, 1944, at the age of 70, Clara Maxwell retired from the Library. She remained in the district for several years, and during that time was one of our most faithful borrowers with an insatiable appetite for mystery stories and classical poetry. After she moved to Roslindale, we continued to supply her with books which she was able to read and enjoy until June 14, when she didn't waken in the morning.

Perhaps the greatest accolade was given by one of her part-time extras at South End Branch. He said, "There is just one thing wrong with this name on the sign: it should read MacSwell"; the reaction of a teenager of the '30's to a real lady.

Anne Connolly

AND SILENTLY STEAL AWAY . . .

The feminine touch is missing from the Stacks these days. Miss Coleman and "Her Girls" have been departing one by one and no longer reign over the Stacks which were their domain for many years. The climax came when, with a suddenness which startled her friends, Beatrice Coleman announced her plans to retire (officially at the end of June), and quietly departed. No amount of urging by her friends could persuade her to allow herself to be honored at any party - no matter how temptingly it was described - to which they were eager to invite her. She had made up her mind that her last days of work would be happy and quiet and that the memories she took away with her would not include the climax which her friends thought was her rightful due.

In acceding to her wishes, her co-workers tried to indicate to her their respect and admiration for her as a person. At the same time, they wished to show tangible evidence of their friendship. Accordingly, one month after her last day of work, two of her close friends acted as representatives of a long list whose names appeared on the white satin ribbon, and presented her with a purse, and the suggestion that a portable TV had been mentioned and, indeed, examined. It just so happened that she was practically on her way downtown to buy a TV for herself. Now she will choose one, knowing that it will be hers as a gift from her many BPL friends.

Miss Coleman's work for the library spanned a long period of time; her official family of girls numbers hundreds; and she remembers other periods when boys manned the Stacks. Through all the comings and goings of personnel; during reallocations of materials in the Stacks (especially when bookshelves gave way to offices); and with changes in headquarters, Miss Coleman remained calm, efficient, and always mindful of the vital part her staff played in keeping the public happy. Her aim was to get books to those who waited uneasily in Bates Hall and in other spots throughout the building with speed and accuracy. She did her work with modesty, understanding, and always cheerfully, and her presence is already missed.

It is pleasant to report that Miss Coleman's visits to her old haunts have shown evidence that her decision to retire was a happy one. She has switched the familiar; for her, realization is proving to be better than anticipation. While disappointed friends still bemoan the lack of proper sendoff for this faithful worker, they wish her every happiness in her retirement and hope that she comes in often to say "Hello".

Sarah M. Usher

A gracious lady has quietly left the Library for her well earned retirement. We who started our Library career in the Issue Department, now the Book Stack Service, will always remember Miss Beatrice Coleman with love and gratitude. She gave us our orientation, and the basic lessons she taught us have proved profitable throughout the years. To many of us, our first experience in working was under Miss Coleman's guidance. Her gentleness as well as her firmness impressed us. If a book was found on shelf, and through our carelessness did not reach the borrower, she threatened to, and would, if it happened again, take away our "privilege hours". We were useally more careful after that. There wasn't a problem we had that didn't become her problem, too. She shared our joys and sorrows. She advised us and helped us with our examinations. A lady as charming, dignified, intelligent, and of such integrity as Miss Coleman would have graced any position. But to her the hidden life was a true vocation. Such a person is irreplacable. We are the richer for having known her. May she enjoy health and happiness for many years to come.

Ollie and Marie

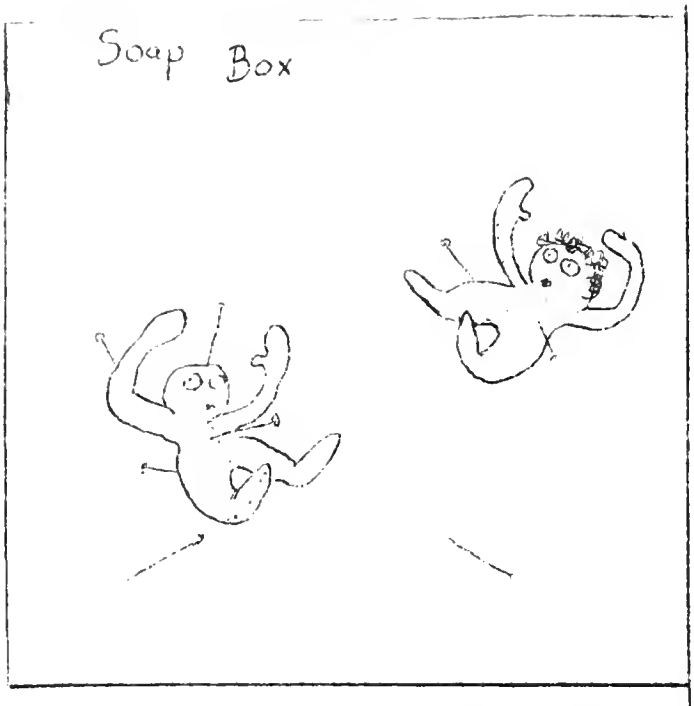
Dear friends,

It is difficult to find words to convey to you my appreciation of your generosity and kindness in presenting me with a retirement gift. I was deeply touched by the tribute that you paid me.

The beautiful television set was a surprise, and I assure you that I will enjoy it this Summer on my vacation and later at home for my personal use. It will be a memento of all my friends.

May I take this opportunity to tell you that my association with you all thru these many years has brought to me deep pleasure, heartwarming experiences, and much happiness.

Very sincerely yours,
Beatrice Coleman



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Editor:

How about a word of thanks, instead of criticism, for the new water bubblers? A little show of appreciation to the people who saw to the installation of the bubblers is certainly in order.

GRATIAS AQUA

Dear Editor:

Why not make the Officer-in-Charge and Coordinator positions full time? Three, or possibly four, could find plenty to do at the O-in-C desk and in really helping solve the problems and in coordinating the work of their group of departments. This would put a Curator IN each department, which would be far better for the individual departments than the present system, which takes a Curator FROM the department much of the time. Any department which loses its Curator to the O-in-C desk for a period of five or more years, cannot be as well run as those departments where Curators are handling department problems IN the department, and from full, not hearsay, knowledge of staff and those problems. Too, it would be fairer to the second-in-command!

If the number of O-in-Cs needed for ordinary coverage is not sufficiently large to cover all lunch hours, vacation periods, illnesses, etc., why could not a sub-group of Assistant Coordinators be appointed who would act in the absence of their particular Coordinator? This would provide a group of experienced personnel from which to choose a successor to any Coordinator who resigns or is promoted to another position.

WONDERING

To the Editor:

I see from the latest material on JOB EVALUATION AND CLASSIFICATION, that the people who will be affected by this study includes, "everyone who works for the library..." If this is true why haven't the part-time employees been issued questionaires? The part-time worker is an essential part of the library; without him/her many departments would fail to function properly.

Let's give them a basis to build upon in their work, let us find out what they think they must do, and what they are doing in their positions.

Then we will have a complete classification af ALL library personnel.

NEW BUT OLD

Dear Soap Box:

The administration is to be congratulated on the fact that at long last ways and means have been found to help defray the expenses of a limited number of "library representatives" at the American Library Association's Annual Convention. For many years the four one hundred dollar grants have been available. All of us who received one of these grants were duly appreciative. These grants, however, were limited by their specifications to those

below the supervisory level. Several people above that level have gone to ALA year after year, have served on ALA committees, on the ALA council,and attended ALA Mid-Winter Meetings, all at their own expense. Now, representatives - or delegates - from the various levels of the library service - adult, young adult, children - and from the two bibliothecal divisions - Reference and Research, Home Reading and Community Services - irrespective of "level" status, may receive help on their convention expenses. Those of us who have attended ALA meetings for many years have "sensed" a feeling of superiority on the part of delegates from certain large libraries most of whom were there as representatives of their library, all expenses paid. Now our Boston Public Library delegates can feel fully as secure and appreciated as delegates from other large city libraries, and the Boston Public Library no longer needs to be "the poor country cousin." This is certainly a step in the right direction. I am sure we are all glad it has come to pass. Long may the custom continue.

EDNA G. PECK

Dear Soap Box:

It is ridiculous that only ONE of the numerous ladies, who have for years kept the water in the teakettle in the ladies kitchen, has had to "run to fill it every twenty minutes", and so now no one of them is supposed to do so.

Strange that for years it has been refilled about 3-4 times during the day, and has managed, until now, to keep the female members of the staff happy in tea and coffee water!

Silly that women, paid to remain in that area to supervise staff and public quarters, should be <u>forbidden</u> to fill it even when sitting in that room.

How are staff members on a 15 minute relief, or hoping to do an errand on a lunch or supper hour, supposed to get water hot in time to use? Do we fill each time we remove a cup of water, and thereby lower the temperature for the person next in line? Does the one who takes the last drop refill entirely... and let the next person wait a long time? Does the Women's House Committee plan to have a list of people whose duty it is to refill at the proper hours?

Or will the teakettle burn out and the urn blow itself to bits before the rule is changed?

This has <u>not</u> improved the morale of the users of the water or of the majority of the housekeeping staff!

LISTENER

To the Editor:

Just a word of appreciation to the women in the Housekeeping Department who for many years made life a little pleasanter by having a kettle of hot water on the fire, so that we of the staff who liked a quiet lunch period or relief could have a hot drink in the "kitchen". It is too bad that these thoughtful women have been given orders to discontinue this friendly gesture, as I am sure that they did not neglect their cleaning duties because of the few minutes required to perform this simple task prior to the lunch and relief periods.

May I ask why the above practice was abandoned, and why the Women's House Committee of the P.S.A. issued instructions as to the heating of the hot water in the kitchen?

TEA TIPPLER

<u>Editors Note:</u>

There may have been a misunderstanding in several areas, concerning the need for hot water in the women's kitchen, the scope of the labor involved, the decision to leave the re-filling of the kettle to the ladies involved in the "drinking". Since the differences of opinion are sharply defined, we hope a reconsideration of the problem will follow.

P. S. THE Q. M. IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE IN MISS PECK'S OFFICE WHO TYPED THE STENCILS FOR THIS ISSUE.

Dear Soap Box:

In the future let's have first aid kits available at strategic locations throughout the library.

I. S.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1961

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 8 August 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Sarah M. Usher, Indexer, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

This month we would like to speak a little about Trustees, for without their understanding of library and community, their experience, and devoted though unpaid service, a library would be little more than a collection of books. Trustees have a considerable but often poorly acknowledged part in the cycle which brings patron and materials happily together. Among the most important tasks in the library, usually legally reserved to the Trustees, are the responsibilities for policy, selection of the chief librarian, availability of funds, and representation of the library to the community. Only a dedicated and progressive board can perform these duties, and more, effectively. Mrs. D. D. Corrigan in the LIBRARY JOURNAL of February 1, in discussing Trustees (she herself is one) states that a Trustee must be able to give adequate time and thought to library matters, be able to contribute - through his knowledge of community and business problems - to the discussions, must bring to his position enthusiasm and a respectful inquisitiveness, and must also have intangible qualities of being able to combine dignity with responsibility, cooperation with open mindedness, loyalty with imagination and integrity.

The BPL has been fortunate through the years in the quality of men selected to serve on its Board of Trustees. Ninety-nine years ago, the first Board of Trustees was appointed. Among the prominent members on that first Board were George Ticknor, Edward Everett, and Nathaniel Shurtleff. They were the pattern for a continuing line of distinquished citizens so to serve, whose knowledge of the community and of the powers, duties and rights of the library, have made the Board a source of strength and vision to the Library.

For the last third of these ninety-nine years, Frank W. Buxton has served the BPL in the best traditions of trusteeship. The QUESTION MARK had planned articles on his career as Trustee for this issue, but the STAFF MEMO, appearing well before our deadline, scooped us on this. Therefore, we must be content to express the affection of the staff, and its appreciation for long service, to the Trustee who for so many years took our professional and environmental interests to his heart. Though a busy professional man, he nearly always found time to attend and participate in the affairs to which not only this Association, but others long since defunct, invited him. His career has been unusual, not only in its span of time, but also in its concern with the welfare and happiness of the staff. Although he has resigned, we hope we shall continue to see him in the library!

In Mr. Buxton's place we have a new Trustee, Augustin H. Parker, Jr., whose background plainly shows him to be of the high caliber needed on our Board. To Mr. Parker we extend a cordial welcome, and we look forward to meeting him.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It is mentally stimulating, physically tiring and thoroughly enjoyable to attend an American Library Association Convention. Staff members could be seen at early morning Committee Meetings even while they breakfasted and if they seemed to sway a little when they returned at midnight, it was from nothing more exhilarating than a long hard session at a Board Meeting.

There were many and varied programs of interest to the various services, which were covered by representatives of the staff. Reports of some of these meetings will be found elsewhere in this issue of the QM.

We are most appreciative of the opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences with other members of the profession. Thanks are due to the Director and those staff members who over the years have been very active in ALA affairs and whose wide connections and generous introductions made much of this exchange possible.

Back on the job once again, we attended a Trustees meeting on July 18. Mr. Parker who has succeeded Mr. Buxton as a member of the Board of Trustees, was present. Various building contracts were discussed as well as the possibilities of re-opening the Hospital Library and the School Issue Services.

At a meeting of the Executive Board, Mr. Gaines and Veronica Yotts spoke of the progress of the job evaluation study. In order to get a true picture it is necessary for them to do some work on the study of professional positions before they can complete the work on the Library Assistant evaluation.

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, August 3, we discussed two problems channeled to us through Mr Gaines of the Personnel Office. The first, that of the installation of soft drink vending machines in the lunch rooms. This received a favorable report and soon may be an actuality. The decision to install vending machines was a reversal of an earlier opinion. The second matter under discussion was the advisability of making constitutional changes so as to make available the Soap Box column in the QUESTION MARK to civil service workers. It was also suggested we might care to change membership provisions in order to admit this group to membership. You might keep this in mind for discussion at the November business meeting.

RUTH M. HAYES

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Catherine Baxter, Mount Bowdoin (formerly part time)
Maurice Carbonneau, Music (formerly Science and Technology)
Anna Gallivan, Adams Street (formerly part time)
Francis J. Havlin, Open Shelf
Kathryn F. Kelley, Central Charging Records
Lawrence W. Larner, Book Stack Service
Angelo M. Mammano, Book Stack Service
Mary V. Mulrennan, Information (formerly part time)
Malcom J. Norton, Book Purchasing
Mrs. Isabel A. Thayer, Open Shelf
Joan K. Trygstad, Codman Square

New Employees -Northeastern Students

M. David Allard, Bookmobiles (re-entry)
Robert V. Burns, Book Stack Service, Fourth year, Journalism
Antoinette Calabresi, Personnel, Third year, Modern Language
Bernard L. Cohen, Book Stack Service, Second Year, Psychology
Kenneth L. George, Central Book Stock, Branch Issue Section, Third year, Political Science
Frederick Gifun, Book Stack Service, Fourth Year, History
William A. Harting, Book Stack Service, Fourth year, English
George P. Holster, Book Stack Service, Second year, History
Marius E. Johnston, Book Stack Service, Second year, Psychology
Robert F. Kane, Book Stack Service, Second year, Accounting
Neil Kelly, Records, Files, Statistics, (re-entry)
Robert Minichiello, Book Purchasing, Third year, English
Marion E. Murphy, Book Preparation, Second year, Elementary Education
Elaine M. Powers, Fine Arts, Second year, Elementary Education

Transferred

Anna Brackett, Central Charging Records to Mattapan
William Casey, Branch Issue to Connolly
Julie Chevalier, Egleston to Codman Square

Charlotte R. Cooper, Central Charging Records to Mt. Pleasant
Mrs. Listena Dozier, Open Shelf to Mattapan
Gale Golden, Dorchester to Connolly
Joel A. Holmberg, Connolly to South Boston
Katharine A. Maguire, Mount Bowdoin to Roslindale
Edward T. O'Donnell, South Boston to Egleston Square
Shirley Utudjian, Mattapan to Bookmobiles

Military Leave
Paul D. Cronin, Memorial

Resigned
Mary E. Buckley, Roslindale, to accept a position out-of-state
Constance Cheves, Cataloging and Classification, R&RS
Ronald S. Gillis, Book Inventory Project, Death in family
Elizabeth Green, Rare Book, to work at Harvard
Naomi D. Manowitz, Central Charging Records

Married
Martha Jeppesen, West Roxbury, to Peter E. Meyer, July 23
Lorraine Hepburn, Bookmobiles, to Joseph Barse, July 29

Retired
Anna T. McGuinness, Mount Pleasant
Abigail Sweeney, Buildings

WHO'S NEW?

Mrs. Janet F. Anderson, Young Adults Librarian at Adams Street, was born in India, where her parents were Presbyterian missionaries. She came to this country in 1956 to finish high school and attend Westminster College in Wilmington Delaware. Janet was married last September and her husband is attending Harvard Law School. Her interests are sports, reading and preparing herself to attend Simmons this fall.

*

Mrs. Gale Golden, Young Adults worker at Connolly, attended Syracuse University and graduated from Colby College, Waterville, Maine. Her husband is doing research at Boston City Hospital. Leisure hours are spent on her main hobby, playing the piano.

*

Mrs. Louise Goldschmidt is the new Children's Librarian at Parker Hill. A graduate of Colby College, with a Master's degree from Simmons, Louise is interested in reading, modern dance and Middle Eastern affairs. The latter is to keep up with her husband and his studies at Harvard. You Colby girls know each other?

*

Julie Chevalier, who works with Young Adults at Codman Square, graduated last June from St. Lawrence University. She lives in Cambridge, where she moved from New Jersey. Julie keeps up to date on international relations and reads poetry on the side. Also intends to tackle Harvard and Simmons come fall.

*

Judith E. Coarr, Jamaica Plain, graduated from Hyde Park High this year and wasted no time embarking on a career. July indulges in all varieties of sports in season. No ice fishing in the summer. She will be going to college as soon as she decides on the right one for her.

*

Barbara McManus is down at Kirstein with nothing better to do than work all day. Haven't we all? She graduated from St. Patrick's High in Roxbury this year. Barb is a bowling bug and also makes an active hobby of staff entertainment. We could use some here.

*

Mrs. Roxalana A. Yarmovych, Cataloging and Classification (R&RS), came here from her homeland in the Ukraine in 1949, attended City College of New York and Simmons, and is now putting her lessons to work in the department. 'Lana loves reading, skiing and her husband, who works for AVCO.

*

Patricia A. Ewasco is the new YA Librarian at North End. Pat is a Smith girl, class of '61, and an all round sportswoman. She also sews when she has to. A former resident of Albany, she plans to be with us for a while.

*

Alice M. Wheeler, Cataloging and Classification (R&RS), moved from her home in the cool hills of New Hampshire to launch herself on a future in our hot city. She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, a lover of music and the written word.

*

Janet R. Stearns, Education, will be a senior at Jackson next year. She has had

some library experience in the Tufts library and is in the appropriate department for the Elementary Education major! From Claremont, N.H., Janet likes skiing and also enjoys all kinds of music.

*

After having been a part time assistant in Rare Book, Janice A. Maniscalo has joined their full time staff. She lives in Somerville and graduated this June from Somerville High. One of Janice's interests is athletics: she was on the Athletics Board at school and says she's still actively interested in bowling!

*

Ernest A. DiMattia Jr. is a June graduate of Boston College. Ernie has been in the BPL system since February 1957, and has now joined the full time staff of Science and Technology as a pre-professional. A Mathematics major, he is hoping to get into the technical libraries field. Ernie was a member of the math and physics clubs at college, and, in verification of a lighter side, was also a member of the dance committee!

*

Dorchester High has sent another June graduate with an imagination and sense of fun to Book Stack Service. John P. Rice (marital status?) admitted to an interest in girls and sports. He also spoke of a yen to study languages at "Arcadia" college.

(Editor's Note: Perhaps more consideration should be given to this yen, as Arcadia was considered the "least intellectual part of Greece.")

*

Following her marriage, Judaica's Mrs. Michael Epstein moved to Boston from NYC where she had graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High. Barbara's husband works at MIT; she has had previous jobs including working as a secretary in the clothing industry. They both would like to travel and they share a stamp collection.

*

Ann B. Stein is another New Yorker, who studied at Julliard before joining the staff of Music. Ann got a BA in Music at BU and went off to study piano - and have some pupils of her own! In a non-musical vein, Ann also enjoys reading and swimming.

*

Gerald F. McDonald had been a part-time assistant for 2 years before joining the full time staff in Fine Arts. From Jamaica Plain, he is going into his second year at Wentworth Institute as an electronics major. Gerald calls himself an ardent chess player and he is also a collector of coins.

*

John P. Calos has joined the staff of Book Stack Service. He got a certificate in June from State Prep. and is now attending Suffolk University's night school. John likes to read and is interested in philosophy and poetry.

IN ONE SPOT

A friendly face will be much missed at Mt. Pleasant, where Mrs. Anna T. McGuinness has worked for over 43 years. To many of the area who have known her this long time, she is Toby, who would happily search for any needed information be it what it may. Her many friends still in service, and those whom she joins in retirement, wish her happiness in this decision to remain at home.

Because this part of Roxbury had been her home, her unique knowledge has been a real and valuable asset in our daily problems. Then too, her unflagging patience with tongue-tied children, and strict discipline with others will long be remembered as something out of the ordinary.

We wish that the years ahead may hold much pleasure and happiness, and know that the adjustments thereto, will not be too difficult. The warmth of her friendship with the libary and staff will be long treasured.

MARJORIE A. OBENAUER

IN PRINT

The July issue of the BAY STATE LIBRARIAN page 8+ has an article by Edna G. Peck: Book Selection - Fun/Frustration.

*

John Alden, Rare Book, made the papers widely when he succeeded in identifying, from the pencilled marginal notes, the Library's copy of Benjamin Franklin's EXPERIMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS OF ELECTRICITY, as Franklin's own copy - the notes in his handwriting. Congratulations John!

"THE CORN IS AS LOW AS AN ELEPHANT'S TOE."

ALA CONFERENCE

"Libraries for All" was the theme of the 80th Annual Conference, held in Cleveland, July 9-15.

Although the Cleveland Public Auditorium was the official Conference headquarters, housing two huge floors of exhibits and providing the meeting hall for two General Sessions and a few smaller meetings, most of the meetings were scattered in various hotels, in the Cleveland Public Library, and even in Higbee's Department Store.

From the First General Session on Sunday evening when Rumer Godden captivated her audience, to the forward looking Inaugural Address given by our new President, Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton, it was a week full of examining new ideas, and probing old ones, meeting and making friends, and sharing experiences.

First General Session

This session was held in the Music Hall of the Public Auditorium on Sunday evening. Mrs. Frances Lander Spain, President of the Association, presided. Official greetings by the city were most cordially extended by Anthony Celebrezze, Mayor of Cleveland. President John F. Kennedy sent warm and appreciative greetings to librarians. Mrs. Spain then made the presentation of Trustee citations. Raymond C. Lindquist, Director, Cleveland Public Library, welcomed the group of several thousand people.

The speaker at this session was Rumer Godden, whose most recent books are CHINA COURT, a Book of the Month Club selection this year, and a children's book MISS HAPPINESS AND MISS FLOWER. Miss Godden, like many people with a talent for the arts, is frequently approached by people who want to know the how of the art. She spoke of the problems of drafting, writing, typing, checking, and of the passing of time from the germination of the idea to its fruition. She told of being caught up in a "mysterious force" which dictates the direction and outcome of the work.

Later in the evening she greeted her many admirers at a reception tended by the Cleveland Public Library, which was a lovely affair held in the Eastman Garden. The decor was delightful and the refreshments delicious.

RUTH M. HAYES

Second General Session

The Second General Session was undoubtedly the most thought provoking of the General Sessions. It was divided into two parts. The first half was devoted to an address by John T. Eastlick, Denver Public Library, who spoke on the topic "This Nation of Ours". He stressed the importance of getting American ideas and ideals before the world in general and conversely, the necessity in America for our getting to know all nations, particularly those of Asia and Africa.

Mr. Eastlick took the colleges and universities of America to task for not adjusting their curriculums to meet changing world conditions. He said that there were only two fields that were taught from the world point of view; namely, Art and Science. All other fields of knowledge, he pointed out, were taught from the point of view of Western civilization. This is particularly true of the humanities.

While libraries in the United States have made a beginning in bringing the countries of Asia and Africa to the attention of the reading public, Mr. Eastlick claims that we have a long way to go. We must have the writings of the outstanding authors and journalists of the Asian and African nations (translated, if necessary) in our libraries and displayed prominently.

The second half of the program was given over to a report of the American librarians who visited Russian libraries recently. This cultural exchange was arranged by the State Department. Seven American librarians, headed by David H. Clift, Executive Director of ALA, visited Russia, while an equal number of Russian librarians visited some of the major libraries in the United States.

Mrs. Frances Lander Spain, President of ALA, made the opening remarks under the topic "Libraries for All - Abroad". She spoke of the project for establishing an American Library in Moscow, after the manner of the American Library in Paris. This seems essential since the research libraries in Russia have considerable material on the East, especially on Asia and Africa, but they lack materials containing the western point of view, especially in modern times.

Mrs. Spain then introduced the other members of the American delegation: Mr. Clift, Raynard C. Swank, Sallie Farrell, Emerson Greenaway, Melville Ruggles, and

Rutherford D. Rogers. The great research libraries of Moscow and Leningrad were visited as well as one of the large university libraries.

Mrs. Spain concluded the program by inviting all delegates to the ALA Conference to visit the exhibit of Russian children's books on display at the Cleveland Public Library. This travelling library was brought to Cleveland to coincide with the ALA Conference. There were Russian guides to explain the exhibit.

BRADFORD M. HILL

Third General Session

The third General Session under the guise of an Inaugural Banquet brought to a close the 80th Annual Conference. Held in the ballroom of the Sheraton-Cleveland, this combined social and business event saw the inauguration of Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton, Director of the Library School at Louisiana State University, as President of the American Library Association.

In her fine address, Mrs. Morton stated that she hoped that her election reflected the vital interest on the part of the membership of the Association in the education of librarians. She noted that she is the first ALA President since 1936 whose professional responsibility is solely library education. The development and improvement of all areas of library service, she continued, are dependent upon the supply of adequately prepared librarians. This she believes can be achieved through the following:

(1) Interesting young people in the profession

(2) Being constructively critical of library education

(3) Accepting and promoting the five-year program of the Standards for Accreditation

(4) Recognizing the continuation of library education

(5) Utilizing each staff member to his full potential

Grace Slocum, Chairman of the ALA Committee on Awards, made announcement of the following:

Joseph W. Lippincott Award of $1000 and an engraved medal to Joseph L. Wheeler, former Librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore for more than 50 years of distinguished service to the library profession.

Clarence Day Award of $1000 to W[illegible] B. Ready, Director of the Marque[illegible] versity Library for "outstandin[illegible] encouraging the love of books an[illegible]

E. P. Dutton-John Macrae Award for advanced study in youth library work to Elaine Simpson, Specialist, Secondary Schools, at the New York Public Library.

Grolier Society, Inc. Award of $500 to Della Louise MacGregor, Chief, Youth Services, St. Paul Public Library, "for her enthusiasm for good reading and her generous giving of self to readers of all ages".

Dewey Award, an engraved medal, to Julia C. Pressey, Associate Editor of the DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION for creative professional achievement in a field "in which Melvil Dewey was actively interested".

H.W. Wilson Library Periodical Award to the CALIFORNIA LIBRARIAN edited by W. R. Eshelman, Los Angeles State College Library for "outstanding contribution to librarianship".

All of the recipients were present to receive the honor bestowed upon them.

ELIZABETH WRIGHT

Children's Librarians

Programs for children's librarians at Cleveland began with a pre-conference at Western Reserve University, sponsored jointly by ALA's Adult Services Division and Children's Services Division, together with members of the library school of Western Reserve. During the three full days of program, fourteen techniques of group dynamics were used for set talks and follow-up group participation. Librarians and community group leaders offered a variety of suggestions for helping "The Adult in the Child's World" (the theme of the conference).

The opening general session of the week's conference also entered the child's world when Rumer Godden brought into her splendid address reasons why she believes it to be harder to write for children than for adults.

Another outstanding speech of interest to children's librarians was that given by May Hill Arbuthnot (author of CHILDREN AND BOOKS) at the annual School Librarians Breakfast. Her talk on The Heart of Heroes became a dynamic exposition of values in picturebooks, hero tales and myths, stories of animals and people, and

biography.

The annual program meeting of CSD concentrated on children's books in the international picture with Datus Smith (author of THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF INDONESIA) speaking about American books in Eastern languages; Margaret McElderry (Children's Book Editor at Harcourt, Brace, & World) talking on the editor's problems and interests in translating children's books; and the writer of this article speaking on American children's books in Europe.

The highlights of the week for children's librarians centered around the Newbery and Caldecott awards. Papers from winning author Scott O'Dell (ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS) and artist Nicolas Sidjakov (BABOUSHKA AND THE THREE KINGS) were heard by 900 attenders at the banquet Tuesday evening. These two in person and Rumer Godden, also, were present next afternoon at the CSD reception for editors of books appearing on the annual Notable Books of ... lists of the last eleven years. The acceptance papers by the two winners are available now in the August issue of the HORN BOOK MAGAZINE, together with biographical pieces about them.

VIRGINIA HAVILAND

Young Adult Services Division

Book Discussions

Do we stress plot and incident too much when we talk about books to young people? Do we present ideas that will challenge young people and help them develop judgment and maturity?

These were the provocative thoughts that opened the meeting of the Young Adult Services Division in the Rainbow Room of the Pick Carter Hotel on Tuesday morning. Over four hundred people had gathered to analyze and discuss books that could have deeper meanings for mature young people.

Discussions were held in groups of ten. Each person who registered in advance received a list of four titles to read or re-read with especial attention to ideas beyond incident and plot which young people might consciously or unconsciously absorb.

Frances Grim of the Cuyahoga County Library, Cleveland, Chairman of the program, introduced Dr. William Taeusch, Dean, College of Wooster, who spoke on An Approach to Liberal Studies for College Freshmen. Dr. Taeusch pointed out the lack of understanding that exists between the physical scientists and the intellectuals of today - a lack of understanding resulting from the fragmentization of learning which man devised for his convenience but which is now isolating him in his own small niche. He described the course at Wooster College which attempts to teach freshmen a concept of the unity of learning and seeks to give both the students and the professors a community of common experience through books they can count on in subsequent years.

After Dr. Taeusch's stimulating talk the discussion groups turned to the consideration of individual titles with these points in mind: to think of the older young adult and his relationship to the world around him, to explore the book for ideas, not plot, to consider the impact of these ideas on the reader and how they might influence his developing judgment, to find small but significant incidents which support the author's ideas, and to consider how these books might help young adults find judgment and meaning in their reading.

The books discussed at my table, MY ANTONIA by Willa Cather, RICE ROOTS by Arthur Goodfriend, ALAS, BABYLON by Pat Frank, and THE STONE by Nigel Tranter, were typical of the titles used in this program. Treatment of foreigners, the characters of the mother and father, and the feeling for nature were a few of the points brought up about MY ANTONIA. How we as Americans can see ourselves as other peoples see us and the adaptability of children to new ways came up in the discussion of RICE ROOTS. And from ALAS, BABYLON we thought young people could learn that survival is possible only through cooperation and that material things do not matter as much as we think they do.

These were only a few of the great numbers of issues and ideas that came up during the hour long general "reporting" that followed the group discussions, led by Ruth Warncke, School of Library Science, Western Reserve. Other groups had seen in MADAME CURIE the ability for self discipline, in THE WASTE MAKERS the questioning not only of our economy but of the background and motives of the author, and in THE GREAT DECISION by Michael Amrine how the isolation Dr. Taeusch had spoken of earlier resulted in two completely differ-

ent views of the same vital problem.

Dr. Taeusch fittingly closed this exciting meeting with a short but pointed comment on communication between writer and reader. Each must go half way to meet the other across a waste land. The author must write to be understood, although today there is a tendency for the writer to write for himself alone. The reader, in turn, can respond to a book only in the measure to which he is willing to make an effort to understand what the author is trying to put across.

YASD Business Meeting

The Business Meeting of the Young Adults Services Division was held on Tuesday afternoon at the Public Auditorium.

Although, like that of all other divisions, the YASD budget was cut this year, there are many interesting projects afoot.

A sequel to BOOK BAIT is being compiled under the chairmanship of Elinor Walker, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh. Aimed at mature readers, it will have one hundred and fifty annotated fiction and non-fiction titles. It is hoped that BOOK BONUS, as it is tentatively titled, will be ready by next year's Conference.

A committee headed by Geraldine Clark, Brooklyn Public Library, is working on the as yet untitled list of books, films and film strips on Africa south of the Sahara. The preliminary list has appeared in TOP OF THE NEWS, but when the project is complete it will include magazine articles, and group leader's materials comparable to those used in the RICHER BY ASIA project.

The Magazine Evaluation Committee has set up criteria for evaluating periodicals and its policy statement is almost ready to be published. New projects for this Committee are the evaluation of more foreign language periodicals and of state historical periodicals.

The new editor of TOP OF THE NEWS is Doris Cole, Library Service Department, Genessee College. TON reaches over ten thousand members and is second only to the ALA BULLETIN in circulation.

A list, Adult Books for Slow Readers in High School, is being compiled by teams of one school librarian and one public librarian working together, in several areas of the country.

Other lists that have been recommended for the future are outstanding biographies for college bound students and a science-fiction list.

Ray Frye closed this meeting by announcing the new Officers for the coming year: Sara Siebert, Assistant Coordinator of Work with Young Adults, Enoch Pratt, President, Lucille Hatch, University of Denver Library School, Vice-President and President Elect, Doris Watts, Young Adult Consultant, New York State Library, Second Vice-President, and M. Jane Manthorne, Readers Advisor for Young Adults, Boston Public Library, Member of the Board.

ROSE MOORACHIAN

SORT Meeting

Henrietta Rothman, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, was presiding officer at a panel discussion meeting of the Staff Organization Round Table. Moderator of the panel was Harold Sander, Indianapolis Public Library. The theme of the discussion was "This is what you wanted to know". Panel members were Frank Diodine, Cincinnati Public Library, Mrs. Josephine Johnson, Louisville Public Library, and Leo H. Meirose, Cincinnati Public Library.

We made note of some of the facts brought out and points made during the discussion.

A Staff Organization is best when it is organized under a constitution and has planned meetings and programs. The social aspects of the organization should not be ignored in planning events for the year. The Staff Organization can be of special help in planning special projects. One area could be in recruiting for the library. One suggestion was to give a tea for part time workers and to provide a speaker on the Library as a Career. Other studies could be made on Employer - Employee relations - Fringe Benefits - Improvement of Salary Scales (incidentally Los Angeles has recently had an 11% increase according to a member of their staff). Other studies recommended: Orientation for new librarians - Opportunities for professional development - Studies of the distinction between professional and non-professional work (and recommended two clerical workers to each professional).

It was also suggested that Staff Organizations visit some of their neighboring Staff Organizations.

RUTH M. HAYES

Membership Meeting

A new and higher dues scale was overwhelmingly accepted by Thursday morning's Membership Meeting. This meeting, scheduled to follow the Council Meeting at 10, was about an hour late. The Council had referred all the Constitutional Amendments to this meeting. As the most important amendments presented the new dues structure, the principle item on the agenda was a discussion of its ratification. There was a great deal of debate, and the many objections raised at the beginning of the discussion set a tone which did not anticipate the outcome of the vote.

During the initial debate, it was proposed that the question of the dues raise be referred to a mail vote of the membership. This proposal could have been implemented in two ways: by direct mailing to every member, or by including a ballot in the BULLETIN. The cost of the first was prohibitive - $1,200. A spokesman for ALA stated that from past experience they could expect a response of not more than 1000, out of a membership of 25,000 to a ballot in the BULLETIN. This low proportion of interest was reflected in the small percentage of the 5,000 registered at ALA attending this "well advertised" Membership Meeting. After consideration, the proposal for a mail ballot was defeated.

The debate on the new dues schedule resumed with vigor. Those against the increase were afraid ALA would lose some of its present members as the dues would become too expensive for them. The particular problem of school librarians, who must belong to state and national educational associations and, therefore, are already saddled with high dues, was discussed. Objections were also made to the increase from $4 to $6 in the dues of foreign, retired and unsalaried librarians. A representative for ALA stated, however, that it now cost $6 to carry every member - presumably this figure includes the cost of mailing the BULLETIN.

The inescapable fact seemed to be that salaries and expenses had risen for ALA along with the general rise in the cost of living. During the past year, ALA has had to cut the budgets of all its divisions, and it was feared that without the increase in dues, activity would be severely curtailed. On the other hand, librarians' salaries have been rising, and some members felt the general improvement in conditions for the profession is in large part due to the work of ALA. Towards the end, many people seemed to feel the increased dues were just in relationship to present salaries and the Membership owed ALA what it needed to continue its activities.

This was proved by the final vote. During the debate there had been continual attempts to raise the Previous Question. It got later and later and people drifted out to various other engagements. The discussion became repetitious and the Parliamentarian ruled it would be legal to raise the Question though there were some who still wished to speak. The Constitutional Amendments were brought to a standing vote, and the new dues structure was overwhelmingly accepted.

From information provided by MILDRED O'CONNOR and ROSE MOORACHIAN

Adult Services Division

The adult member of the community provides an elusive and less captive audience than does the child or young adult. There is need for increased emphasis on adult services and with this in mind the Adult Services Division of the ALA has produced a handbook to assist library associations in organizing adult services units in state or regional associations. This handbook is available on request to ALA Adult Services Division, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois. There was insufficient time to do much more than state the objective of the handbook at the Monday luncheon meeting. It was at this meeting that Mrs. Florence S. Craig, President elect of the Adult Services Division gave a brief history of reading guidance projects from the old "Reading with a Purpose" guides to the new "Reading for an Age of Change". The Miami program (1962) will be built around these guides which are intended for the intelligent general reader.

Katherine L. O'Brien, Coordinator of Adult Services in New York city, talked about developing policies and standards for Adult Services. A manual of policies and procedures was made available to those attending the conference. Here, again, time permitted only brief outlining of policies - the manual itself is worth studying.

Brooklyn's Experiment with Reading Improvement, presented by Richard L. Keller of Brooklyn, was most interesting. Tests and machines were used. "Gimmick" minded Americans liked the machines but Brooklyn found they were not absolutely essential. The experts were able to train library personnel to handle much of the reading improvement program themselves.

At a panel discussion meeting we learned how the Greater Cleveland public libraries, organizations and agencies work together. Some programs originating within the library and others originating with outside groups.

The panel members, all from Ohio libraries, who participated, spoke from the point of view of the type of library they represented. Mrs. Mary Bloom, Lakewood Public Library, represented a large residential and highly organized community. Mrs. Florence S. Craig, Librarian, Cuyahoga County, spoke of the half million people served by the county system. Fern Long, Cleveland Public Library, outlined the activities of a large city service, while Mrs. Louise Ralston, Chagrin Falls Public Library, presented the problems and activities of a small community library (3500 population).

The second day of the Adult Services Division program was geared to an understanding of the problems of mental health and the libraries' responsibility for books and services to meet the growing needs for "prescription service". Among the facts brought out was that the reader has a tremendous advantage over the non-reader - he recovers more quickly. Psychotherapy is geared to the educated person and he reacts better.

A panel discussion presented the problems in selecting and using materials on mental health. Lists of suggested sources for information and literature in the mental health field were distributed.

RUTH M. HAYES

Art Subsection

The art librarians, who are now designated in ALA parlance as the Art Subsection of the Subject Specialists Section of the Association of College and Reference Librarians, had in spite of all this, an interesting series of meetings. At the Cleveland Public Library there was a brief business meeting and a talk by Dr. Conrad H. Rawski, Chairman of the Art Subsection and head of the Fine Arts Department. Following the meeting, there was a gallery talk by Russell Hehr, a member of the staff of the Fine Arts Department, in the Library Art Gallery. By arrangement with the Cleveland Museum of Art, materials from their collections are exhibited in the gallery at the library. Since the museum is quite far from the center of the city where the library is located, this service is appreciated by people who do not have enough time to visit the museum frequently. Space for the gallery has been available since the library acquired an adjacent building into which some of the collections were moved. The space, cleanliness and good lighting in the library was very impressive to those of us who are living through the overcrowded days of the BPL.

The dinner meeting at Gwinn, an estate left by the Mather family to the city of Cleveland, was very pleasant. The house is located on Lake Erie, with terraces leading down to the lake, and is surrounded by beautiful lawns and a formal garden. The director of the Akron Art Institute, Leroy Flint, gave a talk before the dinner which was held on the lawn. With the dinner came a winged assault by some vicious flies who attacked the diners, rather than the food. Even DDT made them pause only momentarily, so we ate with one hand on the spray can of insecticide, preferring the dangers of possible poisoning to the present discomforts.

The tour to the American Metals Society in Novelty, Ohio, provided an opportunity to see one of Buckminister Fuller's geodesic domes. The semicircular building, designed by John Terrence Kelly, lies within the circumference of the dome which in this instance was not designed for structural use, but serves as the symbol of the American Metals Society. The final meeting of the Art Subsection was held at the Cleveland Museum of Art, to which we would have preferred to devote more time, but, as is usual with conferences, there was no time.

FLORENCE CONNOLLY

Reference Services Division

The chief speaker at the first session of the Reference Services Division was N. R. Howard, contributing editor, CLEVE-

LAND PLAIN DEALER. His assigned topic was "The Gaiety of Library Life" with the sub-title "Reminiscences of a Newspaperman".

Mr. Howard announced that he was changing his assigned topic, but from the talk that followed, the sub-title was an accurate description. While his reminiscences had little or nothing to do with libraries, he covered important world events and personages. He was always at the right place at the right time, it would seem. His comments were both interesting and informative. We were given the "inside story", as it were, concerning many events; information that does not always find its way into print.

During the course of his talk, Mr. Howard took several playful jibes at libraries and librarians. I suspect that these were intended to jolt us out of our complacency, if that were necessary.

BRADFORD M. HILL

Cataloging Meetings

The Revised Cataloging Code was the main feature of the Cataloging and Classification Section's share of the Conference; that, and the coming IFLA International Conference on Cataloging Principles.

Wednesday seemed to be Catalogers' Day. At 10 a.m., in the Public Auditorium Music Hall, Seymour Lubetzky gave a summary and appraisal of the IFLA papers relating to the concept of the function of the main entry. Copies of these papers, by Eva Verona and L. Jolley, were available for reading at the Resources and Technical Services Division booth in the Exhibition Hall. The authors are in agreement about the primary importance of bringing all of a writer's works together, and to disagree with Mr. Lubetzky on the point of using more than one name in the catalog if the author writes under several. Nor do they tend to favor a "standard" title, similar to that used in cataloging music, for works published in several languages; this standard title Mr. Lubetzky recommends.

Arnold Trotier summarized and discussed papers relating to corporate authorship - another point of contention in the new code. While the principle of treating the change of a corporation's name as a change of identity is established in American practice, other countries have not always agreed, although the trend now is toward the American viewpoint. Present ALA rules stress the official name of a corporation, but present tendencies are now to use the name best known or understood. The point of using the name that appears on the title-page is one of the most disputed.

On the other hand, cataloging an institution's publications under its own name directly, instead of the name of the city where it is located, is generally viewed with favor.

Wyllis E. Wright presented a review of the American position on certain principles to be discussed at the IFLA meeting. He gave a rather thorough outline of the new code, with the points of change at issue. The function of the main entry, it has been agreed, is to bring together all the works of an author. The general principles of personal authorship remain the same, but the position has now been adopted that more than one form of an author's name should be accepted for the catalog, if he uses more; one linguistic form, however, should be adopted, preferably that of his own country. Corporate bodies are having their headings simplified, and made as short as practical; subordinate bodies will be entered as independent entries, if self-sufficient, and not be preceded by their geographical location, unless they are part of a government. Serials should be entered under a uniform title, but under the new title if it changes.

One general principle all involved in the code revision seem to agree on - that practices should be as uniform as possible.

MARJORIE A. BROWN

Potpourri

The Catalog Code Revision Committee met for four sessions on July 7-8, previous to the ALA Conference. The main item on the agenda was the approval of the position to be upheld by the American representative to the IFLA Conference on Cataloguing Principles to be held in Paris in October. Woven through all the discussions were considerations of methods by which the proposed new rules might be implemented. There was general agreement that "superimposition" (Sumner Spalding's term) was probably the most practical solution.

*

The Membership Committee recommended that the American Library Trustee Associa-

tion be granted independent status in the administrative organization. All trustee membership representatives will be responsible directly to ALTA instead of to the chairmen of the state membership committees.

*

At the Reference Services Division meeting on Keeping Up With Information, Jesse Shera characterized documentation as a professional philosophy that has been connected with science because of the tools and techniques used by documentalists. Historically, library classification has given access to materials. Now the documentalists use equipment such as that devised by IBM for "marking and parking".

*

Resources and Technical Services Division had an informal discussion of copying techniques in acquisition operations. Methods presented included Bibliofax, Photo Clerk, Photostat Expediter and Duopage. Verner Clapp recommended that everyone also investigate the Kalfax method. Bell and Howell is presently constructing a pistol grip camera for the Council on Library Resources.

*

RTSD Acquisition Section and the Serials Section held a joint meeting on the management of aquisition problems. Members gathered around tables to discuss particular aspects of the problem under the leadership of experts. There was helpful exchange of ideas and information, with considerable table hopping as individuals found the solution to one problem and changed to another table to investigate another problem. Problems discussed included the acquisition of domestic documents, foreign documents, microforms, paperbacks, out-of-print books, piece-by-piece exchange, dealer-librarian relations, budget control, economy bindings and handling of difficult-to-bind materials, public use of serials records, recording and servicing of documents, refusal of publishers to sell to libraries, obtaining back files and missing issues, photocopies, simplification of checking records for serials and binding, and other similar and related topics.

MILDRED O'CONNOR

SUMMER CROP

A second son arrived at the home of the Dick Hatches on June 17. The busy mother is the former Julie Lenzi of the Roslindale Branch.

*

Mrs. Ethel (O'Brien) Cullity, on maternity leave from the Business Office, gave birth to a 9 lb. 11 oz. son on Sunday July 24. He has been named James Henry.

*

Congratulations to David Tapley Carbonneau (born July 17) for selecting so wisely his parents, Maurice (Music) and Gay Tapley Carbonneau.

AT HOME

Charles D. Povah, Periodical and Newspaper, is recuperating from his second operation this year. His home address is 17 Shepard St., Cambridge, if any one cares to write. He will be out until after Labor Day.

VISITOR

A recent visitor to the Library was Abe Kalish, BPL alumnus, looking up his old friends still here and finding out what happened to those who had left. His son, now age 18, is a junior at University of Maryland and a mathematics whizz. Abe is working for Central Intelligence, teaching the navy. His first executive officer was John Hankey, former BPLer. At that time they had quite a colony of ex-BPL people together there.

Abe himself has been doing a bit of writing for the NATIONAL REVIEW recently.

FLOODTIDE

Distinctly overheard in a certain lending library:

Customer: I want a copy of the RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD -- ah -- THE THIRD --

Clerk: RHINE

SELECT READING FOR SCUBA DIVERS

20,000 LEAKS UNDER THE SEA

Soap Box

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Soap Box:

Very recently, a visitor to the BPL commented on our policy of stocking the "latest" in trade publications. She thought it unusual that tax money should be used to compete with the local bookstores in providing light reading.

Couldn't this money be used to better advantage either in the Reference Division, she asked, or in building up the nucleus of that circulating collection on the first floor - which seems to be overstocked with titles of transient value, but without sufficient duplicates of many titles basic to any collection?

HMMMM!

Dear Editor,

From the HR&CS list of Novels not recommended for purchase, July 21, I quote the following statements in reference to AFFAIRS OF THE HEART by Muggeridge:

"Present-day London is the setting for this witty and entertaining novel which combines elements of love and mystery. The author however ridicules the Mass and many Catholic readers would find the book blasphemous."

Is this supposed to be an adequate reason for rejecting a book for a public library?

SHOCKED

Dear Editor:

Here we are with a summer that equals last winter as an endurance contest and what do we get? More nothing. We are in an old building with half as many fans as are needed, constantly being told of all the people elsewhere permitted to go home at noon, while we revive the less rugged among us and try to win the race toward closing time sans collapse.

I am not asking for a return to the over-used heat relief idea of a few years ago, but how's about some reasonable treatment of employees who are trying very hard and getting weaker each day?

It will take more than salt tablets to revive us in time to face the rigors of winter. We certainly have an ample staff now, if coverage is the problem that keeps us sweltering here while many other city and state employees bask in the shade of "heat relief".

MELTED

Dear Editor:

The accumulated dust and dirt of many years, which was reputed to be the only thing that held the Science and Technology Department together, has finally been removed. Our hats, and quite a bit of our hair, are off to the Buildings Department and especially to George Gentile and his Green Gremlins for the splendid job they are doing in keeping our areas of the third floor in comparatively immaculate condition. We never had it so clean.

LOUIS RAINS

To the Soap Box,

SOS Urgently suggest restoration of Heat Relief policy or installation of Air conditioning, whichever is more feasible.

SUFFERING HUMAN

Dear Editor,

To those with power to grant Heat Relief. Have you ever read a story by August Derleth called AUGUST HEAT???

READERS ADVISOR (UNOFFICIAL)

"LISTEN, MY LITTLE CHICKADEE, THIS TIME YOU AND THE KIDS WILL BE SENT TO THE FRONT BEFORE I WILL."

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1961

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 9 September 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Sarah M. Usher, Indexer, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

There have been so many expressions of unhappiness and doubt, so obvious a feeling of insecurity, over the tentative position descriptions, that it is evident morale has again taken a nose dive.

What we do, or think we do, is important to all of us, not only as a measure of accomplishment, but as a part of our prestige. Therefore, the disappearance of our most cherished individual work into the colorless anonymity of the jargonistic statements of job descriptions, shocked and/or hurt a large part of the staff. There also seems to be some feeling - (justified to a certain extent by the terms used in the tentative descriptions, and by the emphasis placed on the supposedly important tasks) - that, even after examination of our compilation of duties and responsibilities and a brief interview, persons without a pattern of long experience in the several phases of library work might be unable to understand sufficiently the specialized work of many of our units, to write truly accurate job descriptions.

The semantics used added to our distress. The same terms have not been used for the same kinds of work throughout. There has, thus far, been made little or no distinction between gradations of the same type of work. For example, no difference is shown between directional queries, quick reference, selective reference etc., which, to reference workers, is very important. Nor are the terms always in familiar library language. We cannot be certain the descriptions adequately depict our real duties, or what we attempted to put down in our work sheet. Possibly this was due to haste to complete this phase of a gigantic task, in order to start on another phase, the evaluation. Many of us would have preferred that more time be allotted to this most important phase, upon which the whole evaluation depends, while others, especially the LAs, seem anxious for completion of the whole evaluation, since consideration of LA inequities has been postponed until the LA job evaluation is completed. We ARE invited to comment on the tentative descriptions so that equitable descriptions may be written, but too little time has been allowed for this. But, how many of us understand job description techniques sufficiently, or have time to devote to this within the brief period permitted?

Before we take the view that we are being down-graded, not being given sufficient credit for our effort or are totally misunderstood, let us consider, objectively, what a job description is. Isn't it a statement of the duties and responsibilities the position SHOULD include, over a period of time and from one incumbent to another? It is NOT a statement of what an individual does within or above or below that frame of reference. It is difficult to divorce the individual from the job performance and there is the possible crux of our feeling. HAVE we, or the analysts, successfully done this in all instances? Do we ALL understand that job components are shuffled around daily in most units, depending on who is available when a task is to be done, or on the qualifications of the individuals employed in the unit at that particular time? Or has the work performance of a particular individual at the period of the duty-listing been the sole criterion for

the choice of terms used in the job description?

Remember that the position description is the correct frame of reference. Individuals will always do more or less than is called for within this frame, depending on individual abilities, training, experience, and personal character. We as individuals, must remember this as we look objectively at the necessary requirements of the job and at its relationship to other jobs in our unit, and make the attempt to separate the description of the position we hold from our personal performance of it - just as the persons re-writing the descriptions must attempt to sort, from our versions of our work, those items which belong to the job, not to temporary conditions or to our individual abilities.

To preserve the morale of those who are doing more than their description demands, immediate assurance is needed that some adequate recognition of this fact, can and will be given. We hope too, that the staff may soon be assured that all individual statements of duties as well as the re-written job descriptions, and the comments of the department heads, branch librarians etc., will be given to the Committee on Evaluation, to ensure that the committee really knows just what it is evaluating.

The Publications Committee recommends also, that each member of the staff carefully study the excellent booklet on Job Evaluation provided in June by the Personnel Office. We are also appending here references on job descriptions and job evaluation - methods, use, and examples - for those who wish to better understand the problems involved, and there are many!

Job evaluation is important to us, and to the Library. If we of the staff, as individuals, fail to understand any part of the process, or are not satisfied with results as they occur, we should express our needs quickly and lucidly to the Administration, our superior officers, the Executive Board of the Staff Association, or the Soap Box section of the QUESTION MARK. Job evaluation may, when completed, mean a better understanding of our jobs and a better apportionment of duties and salaries; relieve professionally trained staff members of those time and energy consuming clerical and non-professional tasks we all do while complaining we need more time for our professional work; provide better supporting staffs; attract a higher quality of personnel to the Library at all levels; lead to more transfer or advancement possibilities; and provide more efficient service to our patrons. But the plan needs our cooperation, and belief in it, to succeed!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY ON JOB DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

This bibliography is not intended to be all-inclusive. The references included are the pertinent recent publications in the field which happened to be on shelf and available for examination. Most of the titles may be found in Government Documents, Branch Issue or the Staff Library.

ALA Subcommitte on Personnel Administration. Descriptive list of Professional and Nonprofessional Duties in Libraries. Defines the duties, divides them into fields of activities grouped in professional and non-professional within the activity. This and the US Civil Service Commission listing near the end of this bibliography are the only sources for library job descriptions we found.

*

Bennett, C.L. Defining the managers job. The AMA Manual of Position Descriptions. American Management Association. 1958 Contains descriptions for many managerial positions. Excellent illustration of properly done job descriptions.

Carroll, Phil. We need work measures. Special Libraries 50:384-7 Oct. '59
Job specifications, as used in industry, adapted to library needs.

*

Lanham, E. Job Evaluation. McGraw-Hill. 1955.
Excellent book on all phases of job description and evaluation. Chapters on job analysis, job descriptions and job rating particularly applicable to our problems. The earlier chapters lead to better understanding of methods. Contains methods and examples. Long bibliography included.

*

Loftus, Helen E. Why work standards? Special Libraries 50:173-4 April '59
Questions to be considered in evaluating library activities and relating them to total performance.

*

Luck, Thomas J. Personnel Audit and Appraisal. McGraw-Hill. 1955.
Chapter 14 on job specifications contains several actual descriptions.

*

Lytle, Charles W. Job Evaluation Methods 2d edition. Ronald Press. 1954

*

Morrissett, Mrs. E. W. No classification for librarians. Library Journal 80:2542 N 15 '55
Classifications and standards, although helpful as a planning guide hamper the profession's spirit of service.

*

Patton, John and C.L. Littlefield. Job Evaluation. Text and Cases. Revised edition. Irwin. 1957.
Chapters on Job evaluation, job description and job analysis. Appendix gives several types of sample job descriptions. Methods explained.

*

Rohlf, Robert H. Library management aid. Library Journal 79:1860-2 O 15'54
How to measure jobs which are supervisory, professional, or unique.

*

Smyth, Richard. Job Evaluation and Employee Rating. 1946

*

Scott, Clothier and Spriegel. Personnel Management. 5th edition. McGraw-Hill 1954
See chapters 10 and 11 on job description and job analysis

US Civil Service Commission. Bureau of Programs and Standards. Positions-Classification Standards. GS 1410 and 1411.
Standard job descriptions for various grades of professional librarians and library assistants.

*

Wight, Edward A. Implications for Personnel. Library Quarterly 27:305-19 O '57
Analysis prerequisite for proper distribution of work load, separation of clerical and professional duties, and production of greater efficiency and strength.

*

Woodruff, Mrs Elaine L. Work measurement applied to libraries. Special Libraries 48:139-44 April '57
Evaluation of performance, with proper definition and measurement of activities, can balance work load and improve efficiency.

*

See also the General Index (Annual) Conference Board Publications for other articles on the subject.

PROFESSIONAL OR CLERICAL?

Is the title of an article by Eugene D. Hart and William J. Griffith in the Library Journal, pages 2758-59, Sept 1 '61, which is of timely interest to us because of our job evaluation program. The authors conducted a study of the extent to which professional librarians engage in nonprofessional duties in a normal work assignment. Using the ALA Description List of Professional and Nonprofessional Duties in Libraries, they compiled a questionnaire containing a total of 100 duties, equally divided between professional and non-professional, and arranged in irregular order with no indication of its professional or non-professional nature. Professional staff members in approximately 20 public libraries in the Los Angeles area (population 10,000 to 100,000) checked only the duties regularly performed on a normal work day, and estimated the number of minutes each required.

The results showed clearly that the professional librarian performed a number of nonprofessional duties. Those below branch librarian or department head averaged between 80 to 160 minutes a day

(17 to 34% of the day) in nonprofessional duties. Department heads and branch librarians averaged from 100 to 180 minutes a day on nonprofessional duties.

Some of our staff will have great sympathy, after having tried to time duties, for the librarian who totaled up her working day to 14 hours though on an 8 hour day - and tried to explain the discrepancy by the fact that she was usually doing more than one thing at the same time.

Responsibility for this percentage of nonprofessional duties was credited to: failure of administrators and supervisors to recognize true nature of professional duties; common general disregard in the assignment of nonprofessional duties to the professional staff; and general staff shortages which cause assignment of both professional and nonprofessional staff to duties without regard of the nature of the assignment.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hot and humid! The weather that is - hope you all had a pleasant summer.

Your Executive Board did not take advantage of the Constitutional provision to have a vacation from meetings. They have been right on the job. Our last meeting was held on Friday morning September 8, at which time it was voted to cancel plans for the October meeting because of the lack of a suitable meeting place. We are sorry to abandon what sounded like an excellent program but perhaps we could use it at a future date.

The Special Services Committee has the Discount List ready for distribution. They have done an excellent job.

A question was raised as to whether or not Northeastern students, hired for full time work on a ten week basis, should be eligible for membership in the Association. It was held that it was not the intention of the framers of the constitution to include such employees but that a proposal could be made for constitutional amendment.

A member of the Staff Association brought to our attention a directive by the Personnel Division of the Administrative Services Department which stated that "Employees with 25 years or more of service, creditable under the Compensation Plan shall be compensated on promotion at a rate specified in column six, the maximum salary of the grade to which they are being appointed. This matter was referred to Mr. Gaines.

Several other matters have been brought to the attention of Mr. Gaines after consideration by the Executive Board. These include the matter of anniversary increases being effective when due rather than waiting for the first full week of the following month. Also up for consideration is the matter of P 1's qualified for promotion but who have not been promoted even though new personnel with library school degrees are entering at a P 2 level. Since promotion to this level no longer waits upon a vacancy it is recommended that action be taken to correct this situation.

Another problem (with which Mr. Gaines is already involved) is the job of reclassification. We have asked Mr. Gaines to expedite matters as much as is humanly possible.

RUTH M. HAYES

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs. Maureen Banker, Central Charging Records
J. Richard Belanger, Music
Louise Blanchard, North End
Joanne M. Fischer, Egleston Square
Paul Frost, Central Charging Records (formerly Book Inventory Project)
Jean T. Hamrick, Mattapan
Mary Hengstenberg, General Reference
Margaret Hoare, Fine Arts
Mrs. Lucja Jaeger, Government Documents
Arlene A. King, Bookmobiles
Mrs. Marya A. Knudsen, Codman Square
Mrs. Beverly Lambert, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS (formerly part-time)
Charles S. Longley, General Reference
Mrs. Meredith McCullock, Dorchester
Daniel Morrison, Central Charging Records (formerly part-time Fine Arts)
Dolores A. O'Hara, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS
Mrs. Eleanor S. Rude, West Roxbury

New Employees - Northeastern Students

Maureen E. Dorion, Cataloging and Classification, HR & CS. Political Science '65
Hilary A. Wayson, Bookmobiles

Married

Geraldine Mikolajewski, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS, to Arthur

Douglas, August 20.

Transferred
Caroline Stanwood, General Reference to Rare Book

Resigned
Maurice Carbonneau, Music, to return to teaching
Mrs. Ethel L. Cullity, Business Office, to remain at home
Mrs. Gale Golden, Connolly, moving out of state
Mrs. Della M. Jones, South End, to remain at home
Lawrence Larner, Book Stack Service, to attend college
Mrs. Martha J. Meyer, West Roxbury, to remain at home
Leslie Pearlman, Central Charging Records, to return to school
Cynthia J. Sharpe, Egleston Square
Mrs. Lois Steinberg, West Roxbury, to accept another position
Susan Wall, Bookmobiles, to attend graduate school

Terminations

Book Inventory Project, HR &CS
Sheila J. Doyle, Book Preparation
Mary L. Harrington, Branch Issue
Maureen McDevitt, Book Preparation
Mary Ann O'Hare, Branch Issue
Lorraine Whitkens, Branch Issue

Book Inventory Project, R & RS
Charles Berkebile
Lewis Burleigh
Thomas Gosnell
Warren Hall
Peter McCallion
James W. McChesney
Charles Nickerson
John O'Callaghan
Henry Ricupero
Martin Rosenfield
William Sexton
Joseph Stern
Kenneth Winston

Cataloging and Classification, R &RS
Pamela Calhoun
Rosemary J. Doyle
Rosalind Ferrante
Patricia M. Hennigan
Patricia F. Logan
Joan M. Nelson
Pearl Owens
Anne P. Santino

Education
Janet Stearns

WHO'S NEW?

Mrs. Catherine Baxter, Mt. Bowdoin, after five years of part time work at Adams, has now joined us full time. In her free hours she works with parents' clubs and on many projects with the Boy Scouts.

*

Joan K. Trygstad started at Codman and is now an Adult worker at Adams. Joan is from Minneapolis, a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a major in Sociology. Hobbies include reading and furniture refinishing.

*

Book Purchasing's Malcom J. Norton lives in Roxbury. A June graduate of Mission High, Malcom was particularly interested in mathematics and hopes to study Engineering eventually. In the meantime, a music lover, he keeps busy with a general record collection.

*

Charles S. Longley, General Reference, has an M.A. in Library Science from the University of Illinois. Charles, who had graduated from Wesleyan as a classics major in 1956 and survived a 2 year stint in Korea with the Army, also studied Russian and worked at the University Library. A native of Maine, he enjoys outdoor sports, reading, and music - although he says the only instrument he plays is the hi-fi!

*

Leo Larner, Book Stack Service, is from Dorchester. He will be a freshman at B.C. this year in the Business School. Leo plans to be an accountant and likes detective stories.

*

Book Stack Service's Angelo Mammano is a piano major at B.U. Graduate School of Music. An opera coach at school, he also accompanies other singers. Angelo also comes from Dorchester, and music is his life.

*

A children's worker in the Open Shelf room, Isabel Thayer graduated last spring from Wheaton where she majored in Philosophy and Religion. Mrs. Thayer comes from Daytona Beach, Florida. She now lives in Cambridge, where her husband attends Harvard Law School. We will be seeing Mrs. Thayer at Simmons this fall.

*

A welcome addition to the Open Shelf is Frank Havlin, of South Boston and Stough-

ton. He has planned a busy schedule for next year, when he will attend evening classes at Bentley School of Accounting & Finance. Frank includes horseback riding and hockey among his major interests.

ENGAGEMENT

Phyllis E. Adams, Book Stack Service, became engaged Labor Day to Robert E. Patrick of Revere. The wedding will be on October 7.

BPL ALUMNA WINS HONORS

Of interest to her friends in the BPL is information contained in recent issues of the New York Public Library's STAFF NEWS. Mrs. Adele (Sulesky) Requena, Senior Stenographer, Office of Children's Services, has completed successfully all parts of the series of examinations w hich leads to the designation Certified Professional Secretary, a certification made by the National Secretaries Association (International). This honor has been bestowed upon only eighteen persons in the State of New York in 1961.

Mrs. Requena was one of twenty-three members of the New York Chapter of the Association who attended the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the National Association in Los Angeles in July. While there she and twenty-eight other new CPSs were honored at an invitational meeting.

Mrs. Requena began work in the BPL Branch system and immediately preceding her moving to New York was in the Director's Office. Congratulations to a deserving alumna!

AS I LEAVE THE LIBRARY

How I hate to leave these hallowed halls,
The crumbling ceilings, the decaying walls;
But I must go where duty calls.
So, I'm leaving the library.

The days that I have spent right here,
I'll think of them and shed a tear.
I'm leaving all my friends so dear,
As I leave the library.

Science and Tech, and old Bates Hall,
Music and Stat, I love them all.
But, pulling cards was quite a downfall,
So, I'm leaving the library.

Correct call number, FOESA or kill,
At times, I often needed a pill,
To keep me going, Ah, but still,
I'm leaving the library.

Scraping cards was quite a chore,
And there always seemed to be plenty more
And were they ever one big bore.
So, I'm leaving the library.

I'm off on another chapter of my life's book,
But not without a backward look
At the fun and the friends I made when I took
A job at the library.

PEARL M. OWENS

(Pearl Owens sent us her "farewell" in this form as she left the R & RS Cataloging and Classification summer project. We hope it entertained you as it did us!)

ALL LIGHT MOMENTS?

Just in case you think the above is a true picture of the cataloging work, we print the following quotation from THE WORKING OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY by Josiah H. Benton (revised edition 1911)

"Few people probably realize the vast amount of work which is accomplished by the Cataloguing Department, and it is possible that still fewer fully realize how comparatively useless a large Library would speedily become if this department were not maintained with the highest degree of promptness and efficiency. This demands the highest ability, the ripest experience, and most discriminating judgement, a quick sense of the scientific relations and the relative values of every department of human knowledge, and the most alert and efficient executive administration."

AROUND ABOUT

Even long-time staff members learned new routes between here and there this month, when the repairs to courtyard, and the book conveyor system to Bates Hall, closely followed by re-building of the Abbey Room, office space and Book Stack Service section to house other offices and the public catalogs, were started. Dust and more dust descends daily!

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY MEETINGS

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (briefly called IFLA) was held in Edinburgh September 4-8, happily coinciding with the last week of that city's famous festival.

The United States was represented by a dozen delegates, seven of whom were persons interested in children's library work, including Mildred Batchelder, Executive Secretary of the Children's Services Division of ALA. Jack Dalton officially represented ALA's International Relations Committee. Plenary sessions opened and closed the week and in between the various sections held their meetings. Children's librarians held, in addition to their annual business session, a meeting on the subject of translations of children's books, for which Virginia Haviland was asked to speak on the importance of books translated or republished in a large country with a big annual production of books. Denmark sent a speaker on the same subject, for the point of view of the small country, and Sweden furnished a children's book editor to present the publisher's picture of needs and problems.

Between planned meetings of professional content many occasions were set for informal gathering where pleasant and valuable contacts were made between opposite numbers of different countries. As Sir Charles P. Snow, President of the British Library Association, pointed out at the opening session, there is immense importance [in such conferences] for underdeveloped countries and for countries with already well developed differences of techniques and stress who can learn from each other; and there is "nothing but value to be obtained through persons meeting. Contacts mean we love each other more when we see each other doing the thing we are trying to do. These remind us that we are members of the same specie, trying to do the same thing." Thus we enjoyed each other at receptions, at the Festival Tattoo held at the castle, and at other social occasions.

During the week-end following the Edinburgh meeting, seven "foreign" children's librarians from IFLA were guests at a meeting of the British children's librarians, held at the University College of North Staffordshire. Each one had some part in the program: in an international storytelling evening, in a morning session devoted to the flow of children's books between countries (Virginia Haviland speaking on "Books Without Boundaries"), and in a panel of talks on children's library work in Sweden, Holland, and the USA. This meeting together again was a happy experience, with some renewal of acquaintance with librarians met before abroad and also in this country.

FLOORING SMASH

Page 2762 in the September 1 issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL gives an account of our annex accident and warns other libraries with glass flooring of possible danger.

IT DID HAPPEN

A large dog was observed at the lobby drinking fountain contentedly guzzling nice cold water during one of our hot spells. We do understand however, that the dog did not appear to be operating the fountain himself, even though a well-trained seeing-eye dog.

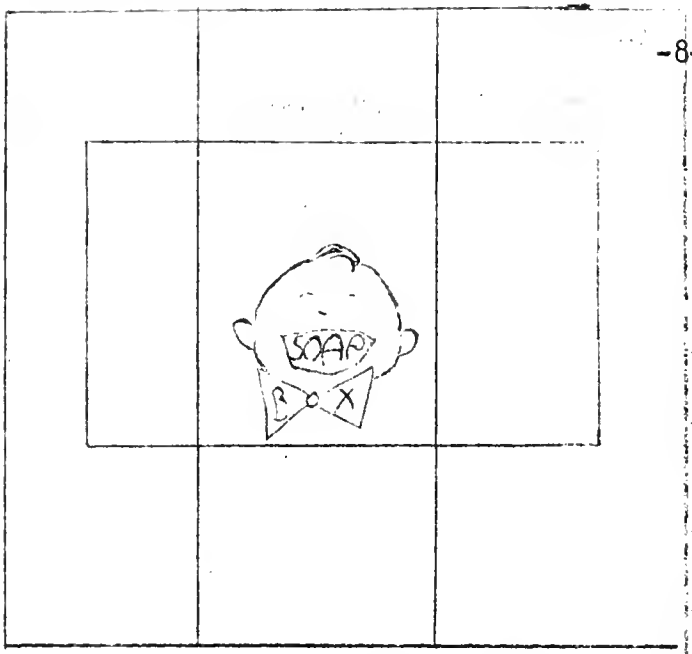
*

Also in the lobby area there is a large sign printed in bonfire red reading "Smoking is Prohibited". Nonchalantly smoking a cigarette directly beneath it was a member of the public.

SCHOOL TIME AGAIN

And before the students cause us all to lose our collective sense of humor shortly, we may all have a hearty chuckle of appreciation while reading Gerald Raftery's "Confer with sages here", pages 39-42 of the WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN for September.

Mr. Raftery deals in students as he is a school librarian. In addition to learning why students visit his library, you will learn how to tell whether two praying mantises are a pair, what a school librarian thinks of the present curriculum trends, the use of pictorial sets, and how to best display pets as "come-ons". Who knows, we might even contract the habit of "bruising around" too! Don't miss this article!



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

September is here and with it the beginning of another school year. School, among other things, means science fairs. And where are our science books? In the Annex stacks!

How about book shelving in the old Printing Department adjacent to the Science and Technology Department? At least this segment of knowledge would be available.

ALARMED

Dear Editor:

On Monday September 11, most of the city went home to cool drinks and near-nakedness, while we, impervious to heat, remained at our posts once again, far too well clothed. Must we approach the ACLU on the grounds of being discriminated against before we may associate on equal terms with other city workers?

SIZZLED

To the Soap Box:

Since air conditioning is out of the question to install everywhere, why can't heat relief be reconsidered? Psychologically, it always has been of estimable value.

SWELTERING

Dear Editor:

I must correct an error in last month's letter suggesting the arbiters of Heat Relief read "August Heat" by August Derleth. The author was W. F. Harvey and it was in a collection edited by August Derleth.

Incidentally, the suggestion still stands! We all appreciated, I'm sure, having the Labor Day week-end but we are still suffering.

UNOFFICIAL READER'S ADVISOR

Dear Editor:

While it was very nice to be given the skeleton force over Labor Day weekend, in lieu of the heat relief the rest of the city had had, we are all now aware that the city also had the Labor Day weekend skeleton force in addition to the heat relief they enjoyed while we slaved. Supposedly, they too are expected to set an example or consider the taxpayers or whatever it is that keeps us from having it. So too, the state workers, who also had holiday weekends AND heat relief. If we do not get it because of inequitable distribution, why couldn't we who work it have the hour or two added to our vacation time as the staff manual allows? Why shouldn't we get the same breaks the rest of the city workers and the state workers have?

OVERHEATED

Dear Soap Box -

Why are the new employees given lockers and told that they must buy padlocks and keys themselves? What is the matter with the locks on the lockers? A padlock is an awkward item to deal with in contrast with a regular lock and key! Why cannot the library have keys made for the lockers and rent them for, say one dollar, to the employee as many schools do, returning the dollar when the key is turned back. There

should be a duplicate key on file in the building for emergency use anyway. Is this a new city custom, or just a way out of key keeping for the library?

WATCHBIRD

To the Soap Box:

Those job descriptions disturb many of us due to inconsistencies in terminology even within the same department. The phraseology does not always correspond to the actual job done ... possibly because of unfamiliarity with the techniques of job description or the work of the various departments and processes involved. We hope other people will work on them before they become final!

FLOORED

Dear Soap Box:

The final boiling down of our weekly tasks reminds me of an old Hungarian dish-----Goulash!

FOOD ANALYST

Dear Editor:

We all realize that the new salary scale for professionals was needed in order to attract recent College graduates but what about salary raises for the P1's who have given 25 years, or more than 25 years service to BPL. There is about $100 difference in salary a year between the new assistants and the P 1's. Is that fair? Maybe this is the way the BPL is asking the P 1's to leave? If other departments in the City are covered by a law which promotes employees to their maximum in their next step after 25 years of faithful service why can't the BPL do the same for their employees and boost their morale for a change.

VERY DISCOURAGED

To the editor:

Why were not a few sample job descriptions furnished the staff when we were asked to note down our duties and responsibilities? This would have saved much time and subsequent despair. We would not now be asked to approve such illogical statements on our duties as have appeared on so many of the "tentative" job descriptions!

DISTURBED

To the Soap Box,

The interview and job survey in May was more accurate and to the point of generalization of job classification than the current one of statements, which has a specific job title heading, plus the fact that the individual is asked to attach their names to something supposed to be a job classification not an individual's specific job rating. An anonymous survey of jobs performed in a questionnaire format would be much more appealing, listing duties performed and the person checking proper categories applicable--not listing time, as many can accomplish more, with accuracy, than others.

"LET'S BE FAIR"

Dear Soap Box:

The current job classification for LA's is too broad in scope. Groupings fail to point out what the individual does perform in areas where more than two LA 1's are employed. It appears that all jobs overlap and therefore are considered LA 1 category, whereas many are performing all and more duties either omitted on this listing or combined haphazardly.

Inequities have existed in the past, still do and will. Why anyone in LA service, two years ago, could not have been given an automatic LA 2 status, after ten years of service or better (there aren't that many still employed) is still a sore spot to many. (I for one lost pride in the BPL and some incentive). Courses and examinations were taken to receive increments, now passe, performing all duties willingly for some difficult to please people, sharing practical knowledge, in a pleasing manner to many new assistants, professional and nonprofessional alike -- only to find that many are receiving practically the same salary, so that today the situation from the standpoint of morale has become the "dog eat dog" approach.

Another aspect that has troubled me particularly is the contribution to the pension system at the current LA 1 category, true, a few pennies more now, seems trivial to those not earning LA 1 salary, but when pennies count it is when retirement rolls around and do mean dollars for existence and security, particularly for those who are the sole support of dependents.

Only twice within ten years have I been urged by my convictions to use this outlet to express my opinions, perhaps I was wrong not to take advantage more than this, because those who pretend loyalty and speak louder, longer and to more people

are rewarded, while others are forced to seek new employment because they cannot be recognized.

"STILL WATERS, ETC."

To the Editor:

There are three moot questions echoing through the busy corridors of the BPL. One--Whats with this self evaluation routine? Two--WHAT will it get us? (if anything) Three--Where will it get us? (if anywhere)

During the past year or so, we poor unsuspecting LA's have been handed forms to fill out, that would make our income tax returns look mere scratch paper. In utter bewilderment we have chewed on our pencils, torn at our tresses, and endeavored to the best of our ability, to judge ourselves, lest we be judged. Personally I am of the old fashioned school. I like to leave such ultimata to the boss. Or if not to the boss, to his assistant, and if not to his assistant, to his assistant's assistant. It seems somewhat like adding insult to injury, to hire us, and let us bask in the security of a job. Then suddenly come up with our ownwarrant to sign, while we tremble lest everything we say will be used against us.

After all lets face it. These quaint little documents will be judged on a very impersonal basis, by people who do not even know us, and who most likely won't want to. My own damaging evidence is rather unique, inasmuch as I had a hard time finding anything that applied to my odd talents, or to the daily chores I do. I can just hear someone remarking "Who is this nuclear nincompoop, we have employed for the past eight years? She should be selling apples in Copley Square" . Sotto voce, she probably WILL be after this.

They tell me this is not a personal thing, but an evaluation of jobs. O Tempora, O Mores ... it shouldn't happen to a dog.

In conclusion, and be it to by Bibliothecal Brother, or to my Civil Service Sister--Pull up a bufferin, and calm yourself. Bear in mind this poignant profanity "You'll be damned if you DO and damned if you Don't."

MARJORIE KNILLING

To the Editor:

Tentative job descriptions have been transmitted and are wondrous indeed. Though considerable unfamiliarity was indicated by the initial approach everyone cooperated as it was to the advantage of the staff that the job descriptions be accurate. Knowledge of the process would involve that preliminary to job descriptions definitions of occupations and activity terminology would be issued so that there would be conformity of interpretation. There is no evidence that this was done. For instance we have within the reference field activities which the Librarian of Congress has stated "vary greatly in difference and importance" and requiring different "levels of skill". Other job descriptions in the library field differentiate between quick or ready reference, comprehensive and select reference and research. Those issued recently seemingly ignore such recognized labels. Unless a job description brings out such factors it neither indicates work performance or work load and is meaningless. This is true in every area of librarianship.

Whether a position involves home reading or research it would seem that it could best be defined by those familiar with the position. Is there any real reason why Branch Librarians and Curators should not write the job descriptions? A person reaching these levels does not need to be told what a job description is. What would be needed first would be definitions of terminologies and occupational activities.

ALERT

Dear Editor:

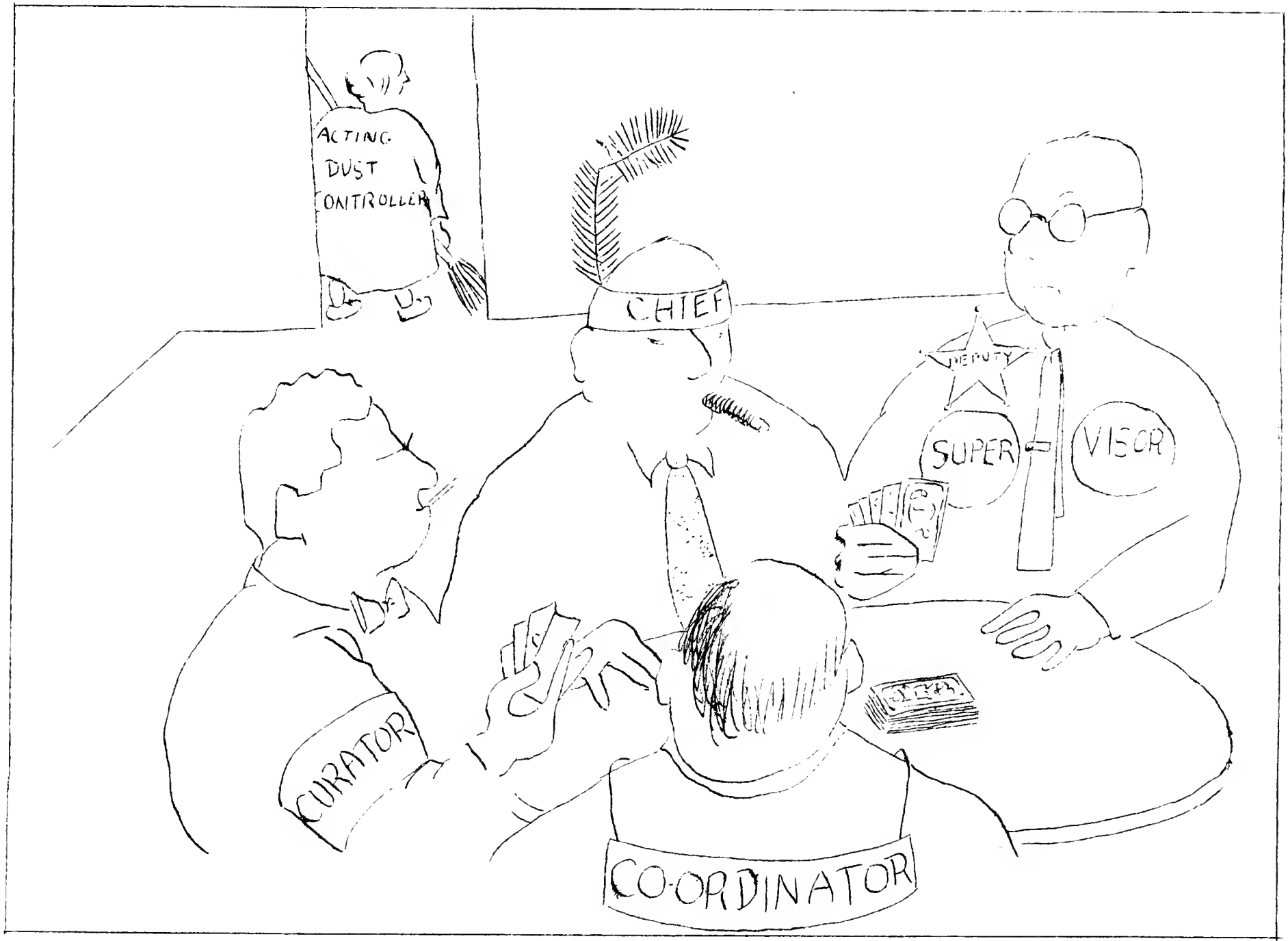
I wish it could be made clear to library employees whether or not they are actually city employees. Apparently, they are, since they were recently sent copies of the code of ethics for city workers. In that case, why can't other benefits of city workers apply to them, such as heat relief? If they must follow rules for city workers, why not enjoy the privileges also? It is understood that Library workers are dedicated to their public, but if the temperatures continue at their present level, the accent will be on the first syllable!

CITY WORKER

LATE FLASH

Lower Mills Makes TV News!

Anne Kearney, Ch. Lib., and members of the WONDER CLOCK SUMMER READING CLUB dressed in costumes of their favorite book characters, were pictured on WBZ-TV news on August 29.


ACTING
DUST
CONTROLLER
CHIEF
DEPUTY
SUPER
VISOR
CURATOR
CO-ORDINATOR

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by th Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 10 October 1961

Publications Committee: Arthur V. Curley, A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Sarah M. Usher, Indexer, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

As children, many of us undoubtedly read the tale of the Emperor's New Clothes in some bewilderment, for to a child, the fact that people will jump to unwarrented conclusions and become convinced something is there when it obviously is not, is unbelievable. A child's mind is inventive and imaginative, yes, but it sees facts. It takes a considerably older mind to read something into an object or a situation which, like the emperor's clothes, is not really there.

Librarians are apparently no exception to the ready tendency to believe someone else's interpretation. For, last month we printed a cartoon, meant purely as a gentle jest on job titles with no real malice - or lampooning of situations, departments, or individuals - intended. The job titles themselves were a selected mixture: obsolete, present, and invented. The site and actions were pictured merely to give the characters life.

To our amazement, few people took this cartoon at face value and enjoyed our dust collector. For the first several days, we were asked "What does the cartoon mean?" And we received dubious looks as we tried to explain. Then we began to hear speculation as to which title was supposed to represent which actual person, which persons spent the day playing cards, which persons had not cleaned up in what way, etc. The next step was the development of the speculative phase into malicious rumor, until some really injurious and unfair comments, disguised as facts, were spread from the lowest to the highest sections of the staff, and what is more, believed.

We have written these words, not as an explanation, but as a warning to those who would have a healthy climate of opinion engendered in the staff. It has too long been a sporting pastime here, to attempt to clothe the simplest facts as we would prefer to see them, often with deliberate "malice aforethought". This practice has had harmful effects in the past, and injustices have often resulted, when administration has seen this speculative clothing of the staff as real.

Let us remember this cartoon demonstration when in the future we find ourselves participating in any attempt to clothe bare facts in more attractive (?) fashions!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

On September 22 the Trustees of the Boston Public Library held their first meeting of the 1961-62 season.

Acting in their dual capacity as a Corporation and as an Administrative Agency they passed on various gifts and bequests and considered various contracts and reports on buildings and equipment as well as budget estimates for 1962.

The Executive Board of the Staff Association met on September 28. Most of the meeting was given over to a discussion of a communication from Mr. Gaines, Assistant Director (Personnel) in response to several letters from the Staff Association Executive Board.

Regarding the payment of increases on the anniversary date it seems we were in error. Further investigation revealed that at the present time salary increases are given in other city departments on a schedule identical with ours.

The Job Evaluation Project is moving along. The Progress Report emphasizes once again that it is the job that is being evaluated and not the individual.

RUTH M. HAYES

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Noel J. Bray, Central Book Stock (Branch Issue Section)
Johanna Burke, Central Charging Records
Victoria Cogliano, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Jean M. Eisenhart, Periodical and Newspaper
Mrs. Julia B. Fainsilber, Connolly
Mrs. Marguerite C. Franz, South Boston
Margaret A. Howe, History
Carol A. Seymour, Cataloging and Classification, R and RS
Margot A. Woodward, Uphams Corner

Transferred

Jeannette L. Alfe, Hyde Park To South End
Stephen R. Davis, Science and Technology to Open Shelf
Helen Donovan, Adams Street to Roslindale
Carol A. Gourley, History to South End
Mrs. Jean T. Hamrick, Mattapan to Washington Village
Francis J. Havlin, Open Shelf to Shipping and Receiving
Brenda H. Hemingway, Uphams Corner to South End
Clara Koretsky, Rare Book to Codman Square
Margaret E. Lewis, South Boston to Memorial
Katharine A. Maguire, Roslindale to Hyde Park
Ruth McNamee, Dorchester to Roslindale
Elaine Powers, Fine Arts to Book Preparation
Mrs. Laura H. Reyes, Memorial to Egleston
Mrs. Beryl Y. Robinson, Egleston to Roslindale
Mrs. Liga Z. Stam, West Roxbury to Charlestown
Mrs. Bridie P. Stotz, Adams Street to Roslindale
Joan K. Trygstad, Codman Square to Adams Street
Hilary A. Wayson, Bookmobiles to Roslindale

Resigned

Timothea F. Allen, Central Charging Records, to attend college
Dorothy M. Brassil, Charlestown, to attend college
Mrs. Marjorie G. Buck, Picture Collection (and Coordinator of the Arts) to live in Connecticut
Edward J. Diffley, Cataloging and Classification, HR and CS, to become a cataloger at University of Maryland
Joseph P. Fraser, Central Book Stock (Branch Issue Section), to attend college
Annette Giacobbi, Bookmobiles, to attend college
Kathryn T. Kelley, Central Charging Records, to attend college
Mrs. Evelyn Kornmuller, South End, to move out of state
Mrs. Ann Marie Moore, Codman Square, to remain at home
Edward T. O'Donnell, Egleston Square, to attend Harvard Law
John P. Rice, Book Stack Service, granted military leave
Marion Teal, Codman Square, to attend college
James L. White, Book Stack Service, to attend college

NEW DAUGHTER

Mr. and Mrs. William Di Rosario welcomed the arrival of Susan Jane on September 26. Susan's daddy works in Fine Arts and says she's little - 6 pounds, 11 ounces - but terrific!

WHO'S NEW?

Among the "soon to be at Simmons" souls is Mrs. Meredith McCullock, Mt. Bowdoin. A graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan, Mrs. McCullock will devote her talents to the YA field. Her husband is doing graduate work at Boston University and enjoying the products of her hobby - cooking.

*

Mary Hengstenberg has joined the staff of General Reference. Mary was a political Science major at St Lawrence. She acted one year as Secretary General of St. Lawrence's model Security Council, made up of representatives from surrounding colleges. Living now in Cambridge, Mary is keeping up another interest - in languages - by studying Russian in the Harvard Extension Program.

*

Dolores A. O'Hara, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS), is a graduate of Emmanuel, where she worked part-time in the Library, and of Simmons. Dolores was a member of the Writing Club at Emmanuel and on the staff of the Year Book. She is currently enjoying historical novels, theatre, and - in more athletic vein - b owling, skiing, and skating.

*

David Morrison worked part-time in Fine Arts before he joined the staff of Open Shelf. David is from Brookline and graduated from Boston Technical High. He plans to work for a Liberal Arts degree at Stonehill next year and may get a head-start by going to Suffolk at night starting in February.

*

Mrs. Maureen Banker, Bookmobiles, had a busy June. She acquired a degree (as an Art major) and a husband (he had been in History) from Taylor University in Upland Indiana! As her husband is now studying for an MA in History at BU they have moved to Chestnut Hill. Maureen hopes to take some courses at the Museum of Fine Arts, and she counts sewing and music among her other interests.

*

J. Richard Belanger has come to Music from Yale's Music Library and has a degree from Columbia's Graduate School of Library Science. Dick has spent a long time in the music world - he has a Master's in Music from BU and studied a year at the University of Paris and the Paris Conservatory. His special instrument in Piano and he plans to teach it later this year at Gordon College.

*

Paul Frost spent the summer on the Book Inventory project and has now joined the staff of Central Charging Records. From Brighton, Paul said that he had spent two years at the University of Massachusetts and that he is going to Boston College at night to study Zoology.

*

Margaret Hoare, Fine Arts, has gotten her professional training in an interesting way. She graduated from the State University of New York at Geneseo as a Library Science major and then got a Master's in Art History at Cornell. It was a summer job at the Corning Museum of Glass Library which decided Margaret on this combination, which she completed last June. One of Margaret's chief hobbies is taking photographs, especially colored slides. She also enjoys cooking and music.

*

Mrs. Lucja Jaeger came to this country in January 1951, when she left Sweden, where she had been living since quitting Poland in 1946. Mrs. Jaeger practiced law in Poland as she has a degree in Law and Political Science, and she studied further at the University of Upsala. In 1959 she began working in the New York Public Library. This year she received a degree in Library Science from Columbia. Mrs. Jaeger lives in Brookline. We know that her background will make Government Documents and Social Sciences an exciting department.

*

Mrs. Jean T. Hamrick, YA librarian at Washington Village, graduated from Texas Christian University as a History major. Now she's studying teenage foibles. She likes horseback riding, sewing and playing the piano. Her husband is a graduate student at Harvard.

*

Winona, Minnesota has sent us Joanne M. Fischer, YA librarian at Egleston. A graduate of the College of St. Teresa at Winona, Joanne loves all sports and also cooking.

*

Anna Gallivan has joined the staff at Adams and is busy learning the ropes. A rare LA who extends her love of people and books into volunteer hospital work, Anna also finds time to do knitting and

crocheting.

*

A native of Pennsylvania, Louise Blanchard Children's assistant at North End, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. Louise enjoys swimming and is learning Puppeteering - a fringe benefit at North End.

*

The red haired Adult worker at Codman is Mrs. Marya A. Knudsen. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Marya is interested in people, reading and getting her husband off to Tufts Medical School in time.

*

Mrs. Eleanor S. Rude, Children's assistant at West Roxbury, graduated from Cornell University this year. Her husband is attending Harvard Business. Eleanor likes to spend free time in and out of the water, swimming and boating.

HONORED

On a lovely Friday afternoon in September, the staff at Mattapan invited Mrs. Anna M. Brackett into the staff quarters. To her great surprise and delight it was a party with cake and ice cream to say goodbye and wish her luck at her new branch. This was the crowning touch to a very happy two months at Mattapan.

*

Mrs. Margaret E. Lewis was the guest of honor at a dinner party at the Captain's Room of Dorgan's overlooking City Point Beach on Wednesday evening, September 27. The occasion was Mrs. Lewis' promotion to the position of Children's Assistant at Memorial, and her hostesses were Mrs. Irene H. Tuttle and the staff of South Boston, from which place "Maggie" will definitely be missed. Mrs. Lewis was presented with a long-eared Spaniel hand puppet with which to delight her patrons at Memorial. The good wishes of her friends at South Boston go with "Maggie" on her new assignment.

*

Phyllis E. Adams, Book Stack Service was married October 7 to Robert E. Patrick of Revere at a Nuptial Mass in St. Clement's Church, Somerville. The couple will honeymoon on the Cape and return to live in Revere.

Phyllis was given a surprise shower in the Women's Lounge September 27 by her friends on the staff, and many Alumni came to wish her well. We add our own Congratulations!

ANTIQUE LIVING

Mrs. Marjorie (Bouquet) Buck retired from the library September 30. Mrs. Buck began her career in the BPL in 1937, with assignment to the Director's Office, and later moved to the Reference Division Office. She became a Deputy Supervisor in 1957 and two years later was named Coordinator of the Arts and Curator of the Picture Collection.

Recently married, Mrs. Buck leaves to live in Weathersfield, Conn., to devote her time to maintaining a twenty room OLD house she dearly loves.

This home, built in 1765 by Daniel Buck, has been in the family all its long life. Located in a section dominated by old houses, it contains antiques throughout and the usual Treasures. Our ancient settlers never threw anything out. The house has apparently been expanded from its original size since the present master bedroom was found to contain a dutch oven and other evidence of its once having been a kitchen. Many of us might think of it as living in a museum, but history and antiques lovers regard it as a kind of paradise. Mrs. Buck is obviously in the latter group.

ALUMNA DIES

Mrs. Anne Sewall Vinnicombe, formerly of Book Purchasing, died at her home on Gainsboro Street, on October 8.

EXCELSIOR!
(OR A LOW DOWN-PLAINT)

I fear there is a curse on me
From which I never shall be free
When seeking books upon the shelf
I cannot reconcile myself
To this: that every time I've sought 'em
They're always always at the bottom.

I think it's asking very little
To sometimes wish them in the middle
It might alleviate this fret
That puts me in a constant pet
But if I've looked in vain - or got 'em
Their place is always at the bottom

CLAIRE O'TOOLE

INSTITUTE ON ADULT BOOK SELECTION

Even before the three-day Book Selection Institute took place at Simmons College on September 13-15, it had the exhilerating air of success. Stimulating speakers --pertinent topics -- an exciting new setting -- had attracted so many librarians that long before the August deadline, the maximum number of registrants of 110, had been reached and over 75 had to be turned away.

The Institute, sponsored by Simmons College School of Library Science in cooperation with the Mass. Division of Library Extension and the Mass. Library Association, certainly fulfilled its promise.

The Library with its modern color decor and the latest in equipment and furnishings offered the perfect setting for a fresh look at book selection policy. The speakers -- Dan Lacy and Lester Asheim, accenting anew the unique educational role of the Library, offered a stimulus to a re-thinking of Library policies and a reaffirmation of belief in the importance of the Library's role.

The sessions also provided practical assistance with book selection in such fields as science and technology, business, medicine, mental health, and nutrition. And in a workshop on book selection policy, participants had an opportunity to look at specific written policies, analyze them, and revise them as they wished. Finally in an effective book talk, Mrs. Florence Craig illustrated how the librarian can stimulate use of books once they are selected.

All methods of presentation were used: lecture, panel, discussion group, workshop, question and answer, and film; and this variety of presentation contributed much to the total impact of the Conference.

KH

Public Libraries in a Changing Society

Mr. Dan Lacy's topic stressed the need for change in the library, its attitude, collection and purpose. The adults now being served are few because they are the product of the depression and low birth rate. The post-war children, now our Young Adults, will soon demand more specialized and intellectual materials. Today, High School education is universal - College attendance is 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 times more common and on the increase. Education no longer ends with graduation; self-training and improvement is essential in a world that has so changed and grown smaller through mass media. Taste has improved, become more discriminating and sophisticated. Reading has increased but not library users. Mr. Lacy believes this is due to prolific and inexpensive paper-backs as well as television, radio and numerous popular periodicals. He also affirms that the library is the only source designed for the individual, all other media digests and over-simplifies for the masses. Public awareness of current issues, need for specialized skills and desire for knowledge should direct our buying to a higher level. He suggests we up-grade our libraries to attract adults who have accepted the idea that we are of service to the student and the retired but offer nothing to the in-between group.

Our image of ourselves as the "People's University" is false because we do not fight for our rightful place in the field of education; we are too timid to experiment and fail to provide the stimuli for the higher level audience. If we do not change drastically to improve this condition Mr. Lacy predicts we will serve only High Schools and Colleges.

DJF

Censorship

Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding, we are unable to print a summary of Dr. Lester Asheim's excellent presentation of "The Problem of Censorship in Book Selection." We understand it will appear in THE BAY STATE LIBRARIAN.

Formulating a Policy

Miriam Putnam, Librarian, Memorial Hall Library, Andover, spoke on the topic "Formulating a Book Selection Policy for a Changing Society". The need for a written book selection policy is one that librarians have long recognized. But in addition, states Miss Putnam, the written policy must be more than just a prestige statement paying lip-service to lofty aims. The library in today's changing society needs a dynamic, flexible policy, for the selection of book and non-book materials, aimed at the "potential" reader. A double

challenge is implied here. The library must meet the reading demands of a rapidly increasing college-bred adult public; but also, the library must recognize its obligation to those readers who have stopped using the library because it does not reflect his tastes.

Evaluation

In place of the usual post-meeting check sheet, the evaluation of the Institute was done orally, with the entire group participating. Small groups of six or eight first considered the effectiveness of the Institute, new ideas which had come from it, ways it might have been improved, and the "next steps". Then in general session, with the assistance of roving reporters (who had interviewed participants throughout the Institute) and work group reporters, a lively discussion brought out unanimous agreement that "more time had been needed for discussion sessions, for questions to speakers, and for working out a book selection policy." There might have been a second evening session, participants agreed.

Many points were brought out in this last session - but to sum them all up - The Institute re-emphasized to every one the need for a written book selection policy, and the unique responsibility of the library and the librarian in encouraging and assisting the adult in lifelong learning.

To most, the idea of the image of the library as essential to every community, together with the church and the school, was not new. However, some librarians were disturbed to hear that the image of the librarian was not as positive as that of the library.

The Institute, to quote from those who attended, was "well-paced, the discussions were lively, the presentations were unusually effective, the diversity in methods of presentation was interesting, and the over-all effect was stimulating and provocative."

There was unanimous agreement that there should be future institutes in adult book selection and in other subjects as well. Administration, reference work, and young adult work were mentioned as other possibilities.

That Simmons College Library was the perfect spot for an Institute was without question. MCJ

BPLers on Program

Alumna Evelyn Levy, now of Enoch Pratt, and Edna Peck were both on the Wednesday afternoon Reactor Panel. Muriel Javelin presided at the Friday afternoon session and was in charge of the Evaluation Report.

ANOTHER SIDE TO BOOK SELECTION

HUMAN EVENTS of September 8, carries a four page article Why You Can't Find Conservative Books in Public Libraries, written by Rosalie M. Gordon.

Chiefly, it chides the book selection media for biased reviewing, and the librarian for not using conservative sources for book reviews as well as the "liberal" standard sources.

BPLCSEA

The QM wises to extend its best wishes to the newly formed Boston Public Library Civil Service Employees Association, which now represents approximately 90 staff members. Organization is progressing well, and the Association has elected these members to its Executive Board: John V. McManus, President, Joseph Sarro, William Murray, Matthew O'Brien, Louise Borghette, Joseph Naples, and Alfred Lundgren.

BARNES SLIDES

Kenneth C. Barnes of the Periodical and Newspaper staff will show colored slides of Canada, at the Little Theatre, Oct. 19 and 26, from 1.20 to 1.50 in the afternoon. Anyone interested invited to attend.
Oct. 19 - Quebec City, Gaspé, New Brunswick.
Oct. 26 - Nova Scotia, Niagara Falls, Ottawa (Queen's visit).

TICKLERS

Telephone rings in General Reference: "May I help you?"

"Would you please tell me how to dispose of a wer-wolf?

*

Overheard at a Branch in answer to a patron's question about HAWAII: "Oh, I've no idea. I don't understand how anyone finds time to read!" We know her to well to add that she was only kidding....

NELA CONFERENCE

The various associations comprising the New England Library Association met at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, on October 4-7. We print the highlights from a few of the sessions.

YA Round Table

Rev. Kenneth B. Murphy, the founder of "Rescue, Inc.", was the speaker for the meeting of the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults on Friday afternoon. Father Murphy spoke of the importance of reading from the earliest years through college. He felt that books gave young people something to respond to and that it made them alert to the troubles of our times. Father Murphy cautioned librarians about disregarding the troublesome, non-reading young adult who is quite often the one who needs and will benefit most from help.

Rose Moorachian

New England Children's Book Clinic

Editor and author Jean Poindexter Colby ably presided at the Friday morning session introducing first Hetty Burlingame Beatty of the Folly Cove Designers, who told of her recent visit to Devon and Dartmoor, where she encountered the subject of her latest book MOORLAND PONY. Lee Kingman of Rockport emphasized the important part that reading aloud played in her family, and spoke of some of the tangible by-products of writing for children - such as the adventure in international friendship and understanding resulting from a correspondence undertaken in search for knowledge of a foreign background of a contemplated book. She urged adults to go back to children's books if they would find the moral values and virtues often lacking in adult fiction, and proclaimed her pride in working in a medium not afraid of upholding them.

Emilie Warren MacLeod of Atlantic Monthly Press, amused her audience in telling of how she received the inspiration for her counting book ONE SNAIL AND ME and demonstrated how much attention a writer gives to producing a story to read aloud, when she confessed that she makes use of a tape recorder in order to evaluate just how her story will sound.

Mary Nash, whose books of fantasy possess too, a high degree of humor, mentioned the double pleasure which comes to an author - re-entry into a child's world and the delight of creating pleasure for a child.

Barbara Cooney, already known to this audience as winner of a Caldecott Award, again demonstrated her skill as an artist, drawing characters from her latest books, THE LITTLE JUGGLER (for which she studied the original manuscript at N.Y. Public Library and documents at Chartres) and L'HIBOU ET LE POUSSIQUETTE".

Altogether it was one of the best programs this group has presented, and was enthusiastically received.

Anne Armstrong

Hewins Lecture

The Caroline M. Hewins Lecture under the auspices of the Round Table of Children's Librarians was given on Thursday afternoon by Siri M. Andrews, formerly Librarian of the Public Library in Concord, N.H. The subject was "New England Folklore" which the speaker presented in an able and entertaining manner.

It was interesting to learn that the earliest folklore of New England shows the influence of the Norsemen upon the lore of the Indians. In the Algonquin Legends one sees evidence of some connection with the Norse EDDA. During the 17th century, witch power in league with the devil began to predominate in storytelling. Many stories told as truth later became wonder stories and then during the 18th and 19th centuries they were known as humorous folk stories. The OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC helped to perpetuate old superstitions. The "Tall Tale" is an indigenous American invention, a fact brought out by the speaker. Trickster stories began in the 1820's. Folklore has been preserved in the works of Hawthorne, Longfellow, Holman Day, and Robert T. Coffin.

Among the many books mentioned in this very inclusive study of New England Folklore was NEW ENGLAND BEAN POT by M. Jagendorf, which may be found in many libraries.

Beatrice M. Frederick

N.E. Technical Services Librarians

Mrs. Mary D. Farrell, chief of Cataloging and Classification (R & RS), introduced the speaker, Dr. Donald B. Sands, Boston College, whose subject, "The Bibliographer looks at the catalog", was

approached from the point of view of the college and graduate research student, for whom the gathering of material is not a matter of "luck", but depends on a knowledge of sources in his field and the imagination to find new and unused source materials, since his research requires him to frequently use information not sufficiently analyzed in library card catalogs and periodical indexes.

Esther Jalonen

Honored

On October 5, the Priscilla Room of the New Ocean House, was the scene of an "author's party". The event was sponsored by Little, Brown and Co., with children's editor Helen Jones as hostess, in honor of Virginia Haviland, BPL's Readers Advisor for Children, on the occasion of publication of her three new books: FAVORITE FAIRY TALES, TOLD IN NORWAY; TOLD IN IRELAND; and, TOLD IN RUSSIA.

MLA Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was held Friday morning October 6 with the President, Mrs. Muriel Javelin, presiding.

Mrs. Javelin presented an award to Representative Sumner Kaplan in recognition of his work on the State Aid bill. Rep. Kaplan framed the bill and was instrumental in having it passed into law.

Marie Sullivan, Chairman, MLA Adult Education Committee, reported on the "Books for Tired Eyes" list. This list has three hundred fiction and non-fiction titles, mainly books of the last two years. It will be printed by MLA and although the optometrists will pay for the printing and will help distribute it, their name will not appear on the list.

Ervin Gaines, Chairman, Intellectual Freedom Committee, reported on the progress of the TROPIC OF CANCER case through the courts. A committee of three, Laurence Wikander, Sigrid Edge, and Pauline Winnick, is now studying the Intellectual Freedom Committee and will make recommendations on its future status.

An annotated list of books on nutrition has been completed and plans for its distribution are being considered. Librarians and nutritionists worked on this list together.

The By-Laws Committee is studying MLA voting procedures since many members have questioned spending money for a post card in order to vote for a single slate on which there is no choice.

Lucille Wickersham, Chairman, Education Committee, asked if members would be interested in having her Committee look into possibilities for training programs on various levels. Many members showed great interest in such programs and several suggestions were made including one for having accredited library school courses available some place in Massachusetts other than at Simmons College. A report on basic training for librarianship including in-service training will be made at the Mid-Winter MLA meeting.

Rose Moorachian

Circulation Control Systems

The Library Technology Project of ALA, on which Forrest F. Carhart Jr. addressed the assembly, sought to determine the simplest and most economical circulation system that would provide for libraries, both adequate control and flexibility. In many libraries across the country, so the study discovered, the conflict between desire for service and financial limitations has caused the librarian to become personally involved in circulation routines; and, in this way, the librarian is often neglecting other essential phases of service. The study recommends, for most small- and medium-sized public libraries, such efficiencey moves as: greater borrower participation, elimination of borrowers' cards, and the use of transaction cards. Especially applicable to such libraries is the Newark system, whereby the borrower writes his own name and address on the book-card, and this card is then retained as the record of the transaction. The use of Wayne County slips is another possibility.

Since 90% of the non-branch public libraries in the U.S. have an annual circulation under 100,000 (20% have under 5,000) and since these small- and medium-sized libraries are well in the majority of public library outlets, it is chiefly to them that the recommendations of the Library Technology Project are addressed.

Large public libraries, with much greater circulation figures, higher percentage of overdues, and borrowers mostly unknown by the circulation attendant, must usually consider procedures other than those suited to smaller institutions. The study

recommends, as especially economical for large public libraries, the Recordak Junior system, (used in the BPL, which relies on electric microfilming and transaction cards for circulation control.

Adult Services

Service to "older citizens" was discussed by a panel at the first meeting on Thursday, October 5. Harriet F. Parker, Consultant, Age Center of New England, claimed that older citizens do not want to be treated as a separate group. Miss Parker's remarks were based on interviews with individuals who come voluntarily to the Center, as recorded in the book YOU CAN'T COUNT ON DYING by Mrs. Natalie Cabot, Assistant Director of the Center.

Kathleen Hegarty, gave a concise and stimulating account of her highly successful work with Boston Public Library's Never Too Late Group. Miss Hegarty pointed out that the attendance and participation were excellent, that the group preferred intellectual programs and spurned the purely recreational activity.

Lawrence E. Wikander, Librarian, Forbes Library, Northampton, discussed in his usual amusing manner the article in LIBRARY QUARTERLY on library service to older age groups. It was apparent that Mr. Wikander was not enthusiastic about his assigned role of criticizing special service to this group. It was also apparent that the moderator, John C. Frantz, Library Extension Specialist for the New England States, Library Services Branch, U.S. Office of Education was much in sympathy with Miss Hegarty's point of view and her warm understanding of the group with which she works.

Mildred O'Connor

Third General Session

The concluding meeting of the Conference, at luncheon on Saturday, offered a lightly humorous and thoroughly pleasing talk by Mrs. Louise Hall Tharp, author of THE PEABODY SISTERS OF SALEM, ADVENTUROUS ALLIANCE, and the recent biography for boys and girls entitled LOUIS AGASSIZ: ADVENTUROUS SCIENTIST. Mrs. Tharp told interesting anecdotes about her sons and their reading (and non-reading) and of their effect on what she has written.

Virginia Haviland

CHANNEL TWO

It has been suggested by an Association member that, as members of an educational institution, we might like to know that it is possible to make individual contributions toward the re-building of the recently burned-out Television station of Channel 2.

ALA BULLETIN

The October issue has several columns of particular or timely interest to our staff:

*

William B. Scott, Worcester County Law Library, has written an interesting letter on the reverse side of Censorship - today's habit of Compulsory Reading - page 767. Everett T. Moore comments on the letter on the following page.

*

Mr. Moore's Intellectual Freedom column on pages 779-80, are devoted to a discussion of the TROPIC OF CANCER's travels in and out of courts and censorship proceedings, including the Massachusetts action.

*

There is another column about our Annex glass flooring situation on page 827.

HEARD IN THE CORRIDOR

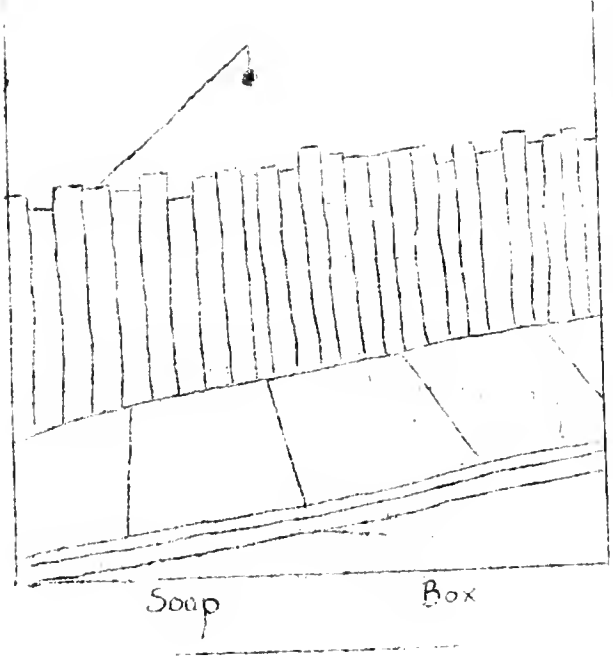
They may have taken all the Fiction out of the Staff Library but they've certainly moved Romance in!

REMINDER

Did you forget that the Credit Union has authorized the purchase of ten shares ($50) between August 15 and Oct 31? And don't forget your pass book!

For the benefit of new employees - membership in the Credit Union is not only a method of saving, but it permits one to borrow at low rates in emergency. Interest payments on your shares is good! Now is the opportunity to go down to City Hall and join - you need not purchase ten shares at this time, but do buy in.

CARE CARES - DID YOU?



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the editor:

The day of the last hurricane was a mix-up in more ways than one. The staff of several departments was not notified of the library's closing, and a few even came all the way in, only to be told to go home again. Tempers exploded when later in the day they were hauled back in, some to stay for only two hours, or less. For the people who worked at night and those who covered the supper hours, there was some reason for this. But what about the others? There was no sudden rush of public to serve (this must have been the idea, as the closed departments stayed home) and nothing of great importance could be done in such a short time. Somebody was not on the ball. Let's go, Administration!

ONE OF THE TEAM

To the Editor-

Are we never going to have a simple and uniform system of notification about Library closing (and opening) during emergencies? Some were called, some were not. Some came in, uncalled, only to be called at home again in the afternoon and told to come on back. Radio stations do not cooperate on the whole, unless an extremely early notification is received, so why not an area and/or departmental phone chain? And why not, above all, a clear understanding in advance of who shall report in if the library is reported open again? This time there was no rhyme nor reason!

AGAIN UNNOTIFIED

Dear Soap Box:

How are we supposed to know whether or not the Library is to open when there is a forecast of a hurricane or a blizzard?

One station did not have news of the Library's closing until 1030 a.m. during the recent hurricane. This would have been helpful if you were scheduled to come in at 1 o'clock (although misleading since the Library did reopen later).

Should we risk pneumonia and/or injury to get to the Library only to find it closed, make our way home again to find out that we have to make the trip over again because the Library which was not open will, in fact, open?

Frustrating, Confusing, Disheartening!

IN-AGAIN OUT-AGAIN FINNEGAN

Dear Soapbox:

If the library plans a possible re-opening when it remains closed, as in the last hurricane, could it not be announced that the staff is expected to stand by? Since we have never been called in prior to this on a "closed" day, it was most unexpected. Had we been informed that we might be called back, when told we were not to come in, (those of us who were told), we would not have done what comes naturally to busy people, and washed our hair, failed to shave, pulled the contents of closets or drawers into the middle of our rooms, or been otherwise in the midst of a task it was almost impossible to leave when the

"come back" call came in.

And speaking of being told the library was to remain closed that day, many of us heard of it only through a friend ... some were not told at all. Since we cannot depend on radio announcement early enough, should not a more nearly fool proof system be arranged for phone calling or other notification?

WET HAIR

Dear Soap Box,

May a mere worm ask why it was deemed unnecessary to call in office or closed department personnel for a brief two hours on the day Esther failed to arrive, but was considered desireable to bring in all open department people? These were not actually needed to cover, and had long travel time coming in, as MTA and trains do not run very often at off hours, but they received but two hours time off for this.

ONE WHO CAME

Dear Soap Box Editor,

Must we have a change in policy every time we have a major storm? Never before has the Library reopened the same day after notifying the staff and the public that the Library was not to open.

Staff in the offices and closed departments were not asked to come in since it would only be for a few hours, but the staff in the open departments were notified to come in whether it was for a two-hour period or less.

Those who were allowed to stay at home had their absences excused, but those in the open departments who were required to work were given extra compensation in a less than generous fashion. Some came long distances by uncertain transportation but were compensated on a strict "one hour off for one hour worked" basis. This time had to be spent (or rather dissipated) at the earliest convenience of the staff member.

TREATED SHABBILY

Dear Soap Box:

If it is ever necessary to open the library suddenly again, as with the last hurricane, could we not have advance warning? Occupied with "free day" tasks, not expecting the call, we were told to be in by three when we were not notified over an hour before that. All of us do not have cars available ... and all of us were not fed, dressed, etc, to go out.

MAD SCRAMBLE

To the Soap Box -

We have no quarrel with the fact that we were called in again after the library was officially closed on the day of the hurricane. But we do object to the way it was done and the total unexpectedness of it. When one does not expect to go to work, one has no clothes laid out, no supper packed, is completely unready. With an hour's warning (less in some cases) and poor mid-day transportation facilities, we were expected to drop whatever we were doing and dash madly in -- to serve a public which for the most part, was not there. Did we get a medal for speed or resourcefulness? Or even a warm thank-you? Even though some came in for a minimum of two hours? No -- all we got was a minute by minute credit to be used as soon as possible --not when WE might like it (we had earned this at great inconvenience) and a horse laugh from the closed departments and office workers whom it was found not feasible to summons for such a brief period!

TRACK STAR

To the Editor:

Why have the front doors remained closed twice recently when we have had sudden showers? Patrons waiting to enter have been wet, and so have staff, running on slippery pavements, in danger of a bad fall, incidentally. Sudden showers need quick entrance to the library, even more than weather in which all come prepared. Who decides when weather is "inclement"?

SOAKED

Dear Soapbox:

Is it a fair shake when you are deemed too unimportant to notify that the library is not to open but are promptly called to come in when it is decided to reopen?

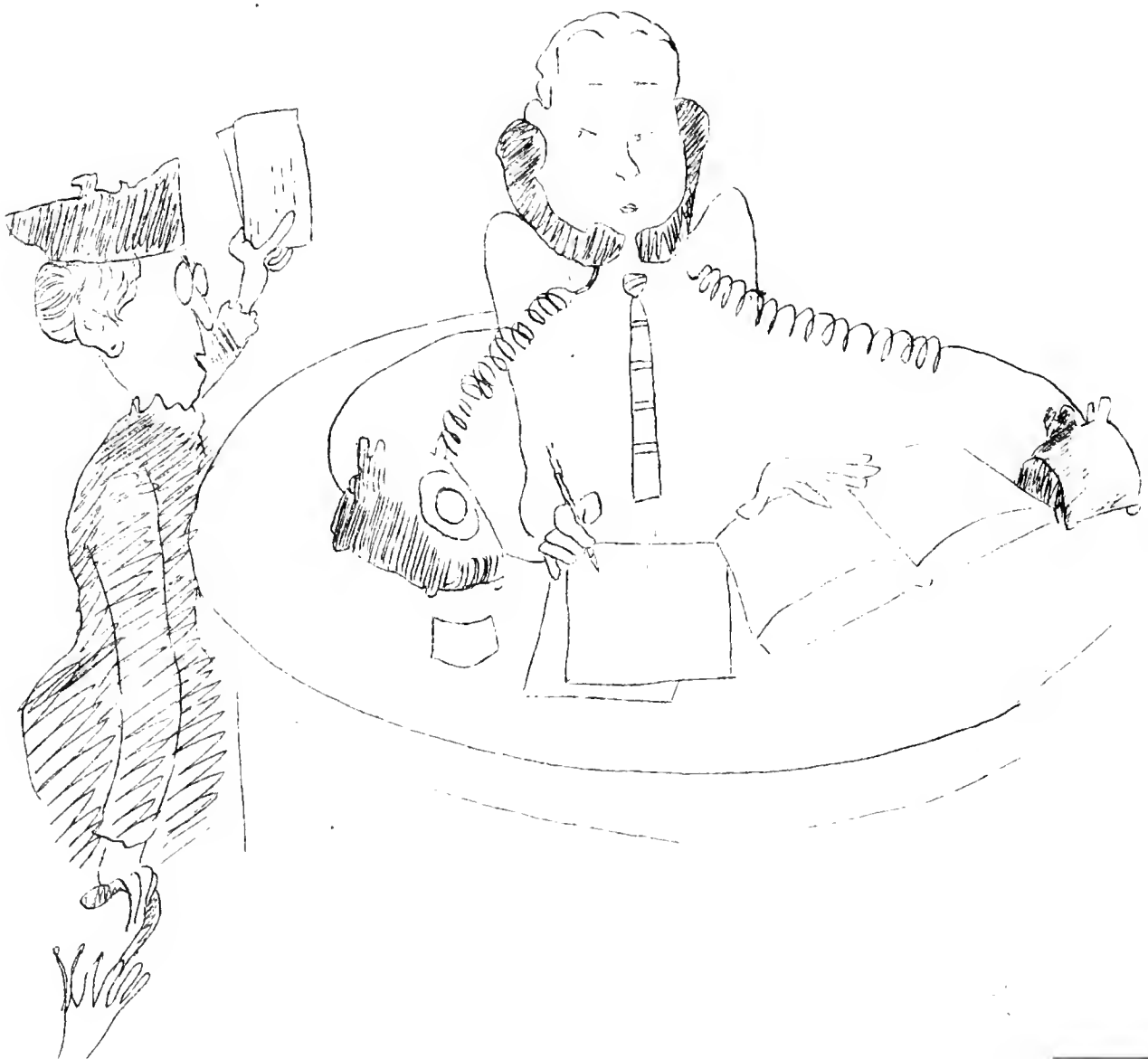
HALF & HALF

Dear Editor:

How about some spot in the building where those who crave a little peace and quiet on reliefs and lunch hours can relax without noise and chatter from teen age part-timers who ought to have a place of their own.

OLD TIMER

"young man, where's the old stamp machine used to be around the place?"



T H E Q U E S T I O N M A R K

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Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

There'll be some changes made - and there have been! Many of us have been pleased to see the "new look" in the Abbey Room where the Public Catalogue is now installed. The murals are still visible, and when proper lighting and other finishing touches are completed, the room should be a handsome center for the Division of Reference and Research Services. In addition to this, with the new book delivery system and the renovations in Bates Hall, we are indeed taking a big step forward.

The changes have not been effected without careful planning - and real cooperation from all those who have either been displaced or forced to work under very difficult conditions. Not only have hazards been nobly borne, but borne with cheerful attitudes which have given birth to phrases like "the all grey crew", "working midst the fall out", and "speaking by semiphores." We have heard stories that the dust has caused eyeglass wearers to think the days have been terribly overcast lately, that lunches seem to bear an overtone of sawdust, and, even, that a few people are beginning to stammer in tempo to the drilling; but we discount these tales as somewhat exaggerated.

We salute all harassed members of the staff for their fortitude and good humoured endurance - and the public for its faith in better things to come. It may be truly said that while you may not always be in the building, a part of the Library will forever be in you.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Executive Board meetings may be lengthy but they are never dull. Sometimes it is necessary to go over and over some issues to be sure that fair representation is given to all points of view.

At our meeting on November 1st, we had lively discussion on some new and some old problems.

In the matter of the candy display shelf in the Coffee Shop, a new one was requisitioned to replace the one removed. As to the manner in which the last hurricane was handled, there was a general feeling that Division Heads should take the responsibility of letting their staff know when the Library is to be closed and when re-opened. Some areas of the staff did receive adequate notification.

Mr. Gaines joined the Executive Board for a discussion of other problems. It was pointed out that in 1955 the policy of automatically allowing two steps in any new grade to people who had already completed eleven years of service was temporarily set aside, apparently for budgetary reasons. Under this policy, whenever a person advanced to a new grade level, he did not have to wait for the last two steps in grade a second time, if he had already served eleven years in the library. Since this procedure has been in abeyance, one does not get the benefit of the seven and eleven years of service. The Board feels that anyone with eleven years of service should start out in any new grade at least at the third level.

Another matter of years of service which was brought up, was that of placing those with 25 years of service at their maximum which was put into practice in the City because of the pension requirement that one must spend five years at a particular salary level in order to retire with the salary of that level. Mr. Gaines agreed to review these matters.

Once again we spoke of adjustments for those P 1s who have passed requirements to be admitted to the P 2 level. The Board pointed out that at present three people with long years of service have prepared themselves by the old system and are disturbed to find new personnel entering at the P 2 level while they remain at P 1. It is believed that one of these people, at least, has received the recommendation of his Department Head. It was recommended that, if valid reasons exist for failure to make these adjustments, the individuals concerned should be so notified.

Promotional system questions verified that a general state of flux esists. As an experiment one person was permitted to present a written paper.

Mr. Gaines was questioned regarding the notice and filling of several positions. It was pointed out that in the past, it was a custom to send out a list once a year of vacancies existing within the Library, with indication of which ones were to be filled. It was also a policy that no position would be filled without prior notification to the staff that said position was to be filled. Mr. Gaines agreed to reinstate this annual notice of openings and notification when a particular job was to be filled.

In the event of an overall raise for city employees in 1962, the Staff Association asked to be consulted prior to the distribution within the Library.

We then proceeded to other matters Mr. Gaines wished to discuss.

First was the possibility of having the Soap Box on a separate page or pages in order that it might be deleted from copies going outside the Library. His arguments were:

1. If venting of gripes were designed to bring corrective action, only the Administration, not outsiders, can initiate desired changes.

2. It is a form of disloyalty to the institution to air internal quarrels to the outside world.

3. The good will among us, not the grievances should go abroad.

4. The attempt to open doors of communication between Staff and Administration (witness Staff Association President attendance at Trustees meetings) so that differences of opinion may be talked out openly.

5. Articles in Soap Box given no added weight by Administration simply because they go to people outside Boston.

6. Association has already drawn a line prohibiting some kinds of material (libellous etc.) from the Soap Box so why not draw the line a little tighter.

Mr. Gaines again suggested that Civil Service Employees (who now have a new association of their own) be admitted to the Boston Public Library Staff Association. If this is not possible, he requested they be allowed to use the

QUESTION MARK for expression of their opinion either through the Soap Box or a page of their own. It was suggested that we speak to John McManus, president of the Civil Service Employees Association to find out whether or not they wish to affiliate. The whole matter may be presented at the November Business Meeting.

Job descriptions are now in the hands of the Division Heads who must iron out any misunderstandings with Department Heads and individual employees. Mr. Gaines hopes the evaluation process will begin within the next few weeks.

The Association president attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 3d.

Much of the action of the Trustees as a Corporation had to do with the General Investment Account. In their capacity of an Administrative Agency there were reports of the various standing committees and reports on the budget.

There was discussion of our position under State Aid and the reduction of expected allotments.

In discussion with the city fathers on the matter of 1962 budget, the Trustees took the position that any reductions in budget would have to be in areas of service and not in the salaries of staff members.

RUTH M. HAYES

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Susanna M. Gill, Bookmobiles, formerly part-time at East Boston

Mary T. Kelley, Central Charging Records, formerly part-time at Brighton

Ernest L. Matthias, Business Office

Transferred

Mrs. Listena Dozier, Mattapan to Egleston Square

Resigned

J. Edward Keefe, Central Charging Records, to work at Polaroid

Mrs. Hazel McDonald, Book Preparation, to stay at home

Retired

Grace Chippendale, Parker Hill

Ethel Kimball, Allston

Married

Carol Rothwell, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS, to Richard Aldrich, on October 9th.

WHO'S NEW

Noel Bray, Central Book Stock, is the latest addition to the staff of B.I. Noel is attending Boston College evening classes majoring in English. Therefore his chief hobby is studying, although he sometimes finds time to listen to his jazz favorites..

*

Johanna Burke, from Central Charging Records, graduated from Julie Brilliart High in June with two years of a Commercial and two years of a College course. She worked this summer with an IBM machine for an insurance company. Johanna is the oldest of two sisters and a brother, and when she is not busy taking care of them, she enjoys bowling, among other hobbies.

*

Margaret Howe, History, is from Gardner, but she got her BA as a History and Political Science major after adventuring all the way to the University of Colorado. Margaret has lots of interests: she has summered at the Cape and also likes mountains for rock-climbing and skiing. As her Boston apartment makes these activities somewhat difficult, Margaret also admits to liking the theatre!

*

Victoria Cogliano, Cataloging and Classification(R & RS), graduated in June from Silver Lake Regional High in Pembroke. Vicky worked part-time in the school library and had a job this summer - starting as a clerk and ending as a Secretary to the Superintendent. Vicky is an avid reader; just now she is interested in books on Sorcery.

*

New in the same department is Carol A. Seymour, Wellesley '61, who has just begun to study at Simmons. She was a History major, and has worked in libraries since her high school days. In addition to her Reference course, Carol keeps busy learning the baritone ukelele and singing in a Cambridge choir.

*

Arlene A. King, Bookmobiles, came down from the Granite State after graduating from the University of New Hampshire with a major in Romance languages, and now lives in Auburndale. She likes to knit,

Mrs. Julia B. Fainsilber, Connolly, is from Philadelphia and a graduate of Wellesley. She is a pre-professional and works in the Children's room. Julie met her husband while studying at the University of Paris in her junior year. They both enjoy art and take lots of auto trips to acquaint her architect husband with his new country.

*

Mrs. Marguerite C. Franz, South Boston, is another pre-professional working as Children's assistant. Her husband is a student at M I T. Marguerite got her degree from the University of Cincinnati in Sociology. A Magna Cum Laude graduate, she is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Hobbies include swimming, sketching and learning to cook.

TAX DEDUCTIONS ANYONE?

There is still a little time left this year in which to increase our tax deductions if we try. And the United Fund contribution will be deductible in 1961 if you give in cash right now ... or may be delayed until 1962 if you prefer to contribute through the payroll deduction plan. You can make your contribution in the way which will most benefit you.

But whether or not we help ourselves through tax deductions, we CAN help others through the contribution. Deadline for return of payroll deduction requests or present payments is Friday, November 17.

IT CAN BE DONE

Some months after the other committees of the Staff Association had been set up and rolling, the Special Services Committee still went begging for volunteers. Some offered and then withdrew, and it wasn't until late Spring that the committee for 1961 was established and began operations.

The main task was right there waiting for them: to update the rather obsolete discount list so it would be of use to members of the Association. Working first from the old list, the firms were divided among the committee, who checked each name to see if the firms were still in business, of what their line of products now consisted, and to check the discount rate allowed. Next, branches and Central were contacted to see if anyone knew of new businesses to be considered as additions. These names in turn were divided among the committee who spent many hours of their free time telephoning and visiting the firms to see if they would agree to be listed.

In what seemed no time at all we received the new list and just a cursory glance revealed the long patient work entailed. While enjoying the result of their work, let us not forget our gratitude and thanks to the Committee: Jean Babcock, Ruth Conroy, Dorothy Eckstrom, and the Chairman, Lou O'Halloran. IT COULD BE DONE AND THEY DID IT.

YE BPL

We thought the staff might be interested in reading at once, the verses about our Library which appear in Irving Zieman's new book FOUNDERS TO BOUNDERS: BOSTON IN RHYME. So we called him, and sought his permission to quote them, which he most graciously gave.

"The granite Public Library, a classic adaptation,
From Huntington to Boylston extends invitation.
Four bronze lantern-clusters sweep over triple portals;
Enthroned in bronze, Science and Art reign as immortals.
Under the cornice, carved names ... a roll of fame--
Prove that any nation can claim such a name.

"Founder of Boston Library was a Frenchman, Vattemare.
A surgeon, he gave books a great deal of care.
At a momentous meeting in eighteen-forty-one,
The support of a unanimous Boston he won.

"Architect of the Library, Stanford White,
By Harry Thaw's bullet dropped out of sight.
On the grand staircase, two marble lions face east, murals are misty blue,
Above, Sargent's threatening "Prophets" recall the spiritual in the Jew.
The second-floor Grail pictures, under oak-beam ceiling and gold,
In the dim room, spotlighted, show bold knights of old."

"The Public Library's Kirstein Branch
Holds information for business and Bench.
A great benefactor in the Boston scene,

Kirstein got rich, with Storrow and Filene,
And was loved by all the races for his heart and knowledge;
Got a Harvard doctorate though he attended business college."

p. 266

RETIREMENTS

Ethel Kimball

On October 31, Ethel Kimball retired from the Library service, and the institution lost one of its best-known and most faithful staff-members. During her term of service, she has worked at such diverse Branches as Memorial, Connolly and Brighton, ending her career at Allston. At each of these places, she made many friends among her fellow-workers and the public, and all of us will miss her serene good-humor and pleasant co-operation. Now she is free to devote her time to her many interests, among which are art, the theatre and travel. Wherever she goes, we are sure she will be followed by the best wishes of those of us who have been privileged to work with her at one time or another.

CHRISTIANA P. JORDAN

Grace Chippendale

On May 10, 1923, Grace Chippendale entered the service of the BPL, on a part-time basis at Lower Mills. The next year she became a full-time staff member, and has since served adult readers at a variety of branches: Roxbury Crossing, Mattapan, Boylston, North End, Memorial, Tyler Street, South Boston, Fellows Atheneum, Hyde Park, South End, and Parker Hill. Her resignation became effective on October 31. We wish Grace all the best in her new life of freedom from the desk.

BROWSING ABOUT

An English Professor, F. Allen Briggs, pokes gentle fun at the library status symbols of special titles, new furnishings, charging machines, glass masses, and articles or books published by staff members, in the WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN of November - pages 231-33 - while he claims the real service of bringing the patron and the books he needs (and which are suitable to him) together, suffers. He then shows how the status symbols may be made to work for the library. His definition of a "better" book as one which meets his mind where it is and stimulates it to greater activity is typical of the challenge in this article.

*

Our own Ervin Gaines has an article in the BAY STATE LIBRARIAN for October on pages 5-8, with the title Boston's Recruiting Program. It details our particular problems and the steps taken to solve them; shortages, salary scales, the library as a training ground for other libraries, the pre-professional program, and recruiting in colleges and library schools. If you have only heard bits and pieces of this story, here it is for you to read.

*

This article is followed by another on recruiting by Louis Schrieber of Brandeis in which he takes librarians to task, both in public and in school libraries, for trying to exclude youngsters from the library, as nuisances, just when they are trying to decide upon a career. And this turns away many future recruits for the library field. An interesting angle, which we should perhaps take into consideration in our future planning and in solving the student use problem.

*

The November WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN on pages 234-36 has an article about issuing a faculty handbook on the library. It is written by Robert M. Lightfoot Jr., Director of the Library at Bradley University. He takes the premise that too many college administration and faculty members know too little about library functions - what a library can or can't do for them in their teaching. And mentions what he did to improve the situation. Since we have a somewhat similar problem on a far larger scale, since we are concerned with many schools and colleges, rather than one, there may be wide staff interest in this article.

CALLING ALL STAFF MEMBERS

The Executive Board of the BPLSA has made it possible for the Association to make a tangible contribution to one of Boston's outstanding educational projects. When the news was flashed over the air on October 14, that WGBH-TV Channel 2 had been swept by fire and almost totally destroyed, the citizens of Boston were stunned. WGBH is not only a local FM-TV station, it is nationally recognized as one of the major educational television stations in this country. It has received several awards to attest to this fact. We recognize that Channel 2's contribution to the educational and cultural life of Boston has been outstanding. BPLSA members have had some small part in this: the Classroom project on which Beryl Robinson did such a magnificent job, and currently the "Dynamics of Leadership" on which Muriel Javelin is "starring." Now, all of us, you and me, have the opportunity to make a contribution to this fellow-institution in the educational field.

The Executive Board has invited me to accept contributions for the WGBH-TV Channel 2, building and revitalization fund. This is our opportunity to really do something for the community. We read and hear so much about what is wrong with Boston and the Commonwealth. WGBH is something that is good, very good, in our community. Let's "give until it hurts" and learn the great truth, that it never hurts to give, for a good cause.

All contributions, large or small, may be put in an envelope, with your name included, and left in Book Selection, HRS, any time between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. between now and November 30. Think how much we could send to WGBH if every staff member gave at least one dollar. (Several have already given far more than this). As our President, Ruth Hayes, pointed out in announcing this project, gifts are not limited to staff members but may include "friends" also. You may have friends or relatives who have not yet made a contribution. Invite them to join us. Some staff members may have made individual contributions previous to Miss Hayes' announcement. In such cases why not add one more dollar, to help swell the BPLSA fund? Amounts given will be known only by the person giving and the person collecting. However, the names and addresses of all staff members, or friends or relatives, who give ten dollars or more, will be forwarded to WGBH in order that their gift may be recorded and they will be eligible to receive the monthly program bulletin issued by WGBH.

We are "off in a cloud of smoke" (no pun intended.) The line forms at the right. Let's put BPLSA on the local map.

EDNA G. PECK
Collector for
Funds for WGBH-TV Fund

WHY DON'T WE ...?

Provide a list of the books that are placed in the exhibition cases? The public are always interested and want to reserve them.

*

Place a limited number of exceptional professional or pre-professional candidates on the payroll when we find them, even though there are no current vacancies? A vacancy is sure to turn up, with no candidates, within a very short time. In the meanwhile, they might be sent rotating for a week or two at a time in typical branches, or special departments, to learn the collections and "the ropes". This would make them very valuable to the Library when they find a permanent spot. They might also be used in especially busy areas, or to cover a leave of absence, illness, or other emergency.

*

Re-name the "temporary" conference room? Surely it deserves some better designation after all these years of use! Or does a thing become UN-temporary only after fifty years?

WEDDING

Carol Rothwell, Cataloging and Classification (R & RS) was married October 9 at St. Peter's Church to Richard E. Aldrich, who works for the Boston Hose and Rubber Company. The couple honeymooned in Maine, and live in Dorchester.

BOOKMARKS

Concord N.H. put on a display of bookmarks collected from returned volumes recently. Included were grocery and other lists, a tag from a foundation garment, a thank you letter "I don't know what this present is but thank you anyway", buttons, etc. Can these compete with ours?

LUNCHEON - WITH MUSIC

The sunny, brisk weather of November 1st could not have made a more appropriate day on which to honor Alberta P. Kneeland at the Red Coach Grill. Forty-six friends gathered there to wish her warmly well after her nearly thirty years' service in the Library, first in the branches, and, for the last fifteen years, in the Music Department, where she was acting-Chief for six years.

According to her wishes, she retired without fanfare, although a brief tribute could not escape these columns. However, there were several people, including former members of the Department, who were not willing to let her trot away without a chance to express their good wishes, and so, after biding their time, persuaded Miss Kneeland to sally forth once again to the marble halls of Venetian grandeur, and on (through the still be-pumpkined aisles) to a festive meal.

"Coach" and pumpkins not withstanding, this was no dull Cinderella that delighted those around her with her sharp humor; Miss Kneeland needs no fairy god-mother to rise to any occasion, including her words of sober gratitude following a "molto" musical presentation speech by Mr. Hill:

"...If I may use an analogy and compare the Music Department to a small orchestra from the position of a violinist you suddenly found yourself in the role of Conductor. To add to your difficulties the Musicians were changed frequently during the performance.

"At times the mood was lento, and even threatened to become morendo. Then presto there was an accelerando which often reached a furioso. A little pizzicato was thrown in just to make things interesting. I am sure at times you reached the stage when you felt it was almost troppo."

Miss Kneeland received a generous purse which is, however, a mere token of our warm memories of her own generosity in so many ways.

We wish her well, and shall miss her.

MARY W. WALLACE

Dear Library Friends:

That was a very grand party that was given me at the Red Coach Grill on November first.

The opportunity to see and greet so many of you again gave me the greatest pleasure.

Being Queen for a day is not a familiar role for me, but sitting in a seat of honor, and wearing your beautiful flowers made me feel like one.

Mr. Hill's eulogy, couched by him in the finest musical idiom, took me completely by surprise. To say that it was terse, adequate, and amusing, is to put it mildly.

What followed left me nearly speechless. A gift of that dimension has tantalizing possibilities. The fact that it was given to me in a true spirit of friendliness will always mean a great deal to me.

A wonderful party; a wonderful memory! How can I ever thankyou all enough?

Most sincerely,
ALBERTA P. KNEELAND

SERVICE ASKED

Seen on a call-slip -"latest addition of HARPERS."

*

And a phone call to General Reference:
Hello. What was the name of the son in the book SON OF TIREISEAS?
Would you repeat that title please?
Oh you know. The book by Hemingway- THE SON OF TIREISEAS.
We don't find that title ... Could you mean THE SUN ALSO RISES?
Oh yes. What was the name of the son?
This is sun s-u-n.
Well, didn't it have a name?

*

Then there was the college student who called the Periodical room at six one evening and said he'd be coming to the library later, after dinner, and would we arrange to have a long list of bound periodicals sent to the general reading room so they'd be ready for him when he came - and was quite put out to find they'd all be found on the walls in the Periodical rooms and he would have to actually lift them down to the tables.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 17 BPLSA Business Meeting
Temporary Conference Room
9.15 a.m.

"Without all that padding you really look sick."

Soap Box

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name is used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Soap Box:

Why is there such a disparity between the facilities in the men's lunch and rest areas and those in the women's areas? Is it that the men do not desire more adequate facilities or that their requests for improvements have met with little response?

Perhaps "integration" of these facilities is not feasible immediately, but might not "equal but separate" facilities be a reasonable step towards the elimination of any appearance of any discrimination towards the male minority?

The contrast in furnishings is quite striking. The bare electric light bulbs in ceiling fixtures as against indirect lighting from table lamps. A hot plate for making hot water for instant coffee or tea or for soup is a popular item in the ladies quarters but none is available in the men's. Only one piece of furniture where men may rest, a rather beat up sofa as compared with two sofas and several upholstered chairs in the women's lounge.

COMFOSEE

(Committee for Sexual Equality

To the Soap Box:

QM has performed a disservice to public libraries and to the book selection profession, with publication in the October issue of the item "Another Side to Book Selection". This is accomplished by failure to identify the author of the article.

The BPL has practically every book written by Barry Goldwater, William F. Buckley, John T. Flynn, Paul Harvey, Ralph DeToledano, James Burnham, Whittaker Chambers, to name a few; in fact look up any conservative author in the catalog of any large public library and you are quite certain to find him listed. This library also subscribes to NATIONAL REVIEW, INTELLIGENCE DIGEST, COUNTERATTACK, HUMAN EVENTS, COMMUNIST LINE BULLETIN, AMERICAN MERCURY, AMERICAN OPINION, MODERN AGE, and other conservative journals and newsletters.

Rosalie M. Gordon, author of "Why You Can't Find Conservative Books in Public Libraries", is also the author of NINE MEN AGAINST AMERICA, published by Devin-Adair and later reprinted in AMERICAN OPINION, of which John Birch Society founder Robert Welch is editor. Mr. Welch has based his move to impeach Chief Justice Warren on this book.

What the conservatives, as represented by Rosalie Gordon, really desire is book selection dedicated only to the selection of conservative books. We call your attention to "Texans For America", PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY, Volume 180, #14, October 2. Let the Publications Committee read this and then tell us whether or not this is their concept of book selection.

The QUESTION MARK would have contributed a far greater service to librarianship by challenging the truth of the statement, or was the omission deliberate?

LEONARD J. MACMILLAN

(Ed. Note - For well over a year, we have published annotations on articles which currently relate to a phase of library work or interest, without identifying the author politically, or, many times, in any fashion. The Publications Committee

had no intent to inject politics into the QM - it is the author of this letter who has done this. Neither the Birch Society or Rosalie Gordon's book has any bearing on the content of the article in question, nor has the FW article - concerning protests against some text books in use in Texas schools. Mr. MacMillan might find a grain or two of truth worth staff consideration, even in an article by a conservative, should he re-read the Gordon article - which incidentally has not yet been received in the Library, although claimed several times. His hasty conclusion that all members to the poltical right think alike is not only erroneous, but in no way affects the fact that perhaps librarians dealing with book selection might wish to have the article called to their attention.)

Dear Editor:

Could something be done about raising the temperature in the building? (Central that is) On the Stack two level, at least it is far from warm these days, the heat goes on for a little while and then vanishes, so that one really needs a fur coat to be comfortable sometimes. This building has always been warm until the past year or so and let's hope it will be again soon!

FROZEN

Dear Soap Box:

Why is my chest wheezing?
Why all this darned sneezing?
Because the temp-er-a-ture
Equals the pure
Ozone outside.

Typing with stiff fingers
While still the hope lingers
Maybe the heat will arise.
What a surprise
T'would be to me.

I. CYCLE

Dear Soap Box,

On the day of Hurricane Esther, the members of my department were notified of the Library's closing by our chief.

One gets the impression from reading the October Soap Box that the complaints were Library wide. I don't believe this is so.

I.R.S.

MORE BROWSING

Teacher-Librarian relationships and cooperation between teacher and library on assignment making is condensed in lively form on page 237 of the November WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN from a longer article in the NEA JOURNAL for September (pages 40-56) in its special guide to assignment making. We will easily recognize the teachers who give too many pupils the same assignment, too indefinite and not wholly understood assignments. It is a little comforting to know that NEA is also attacking the problem.

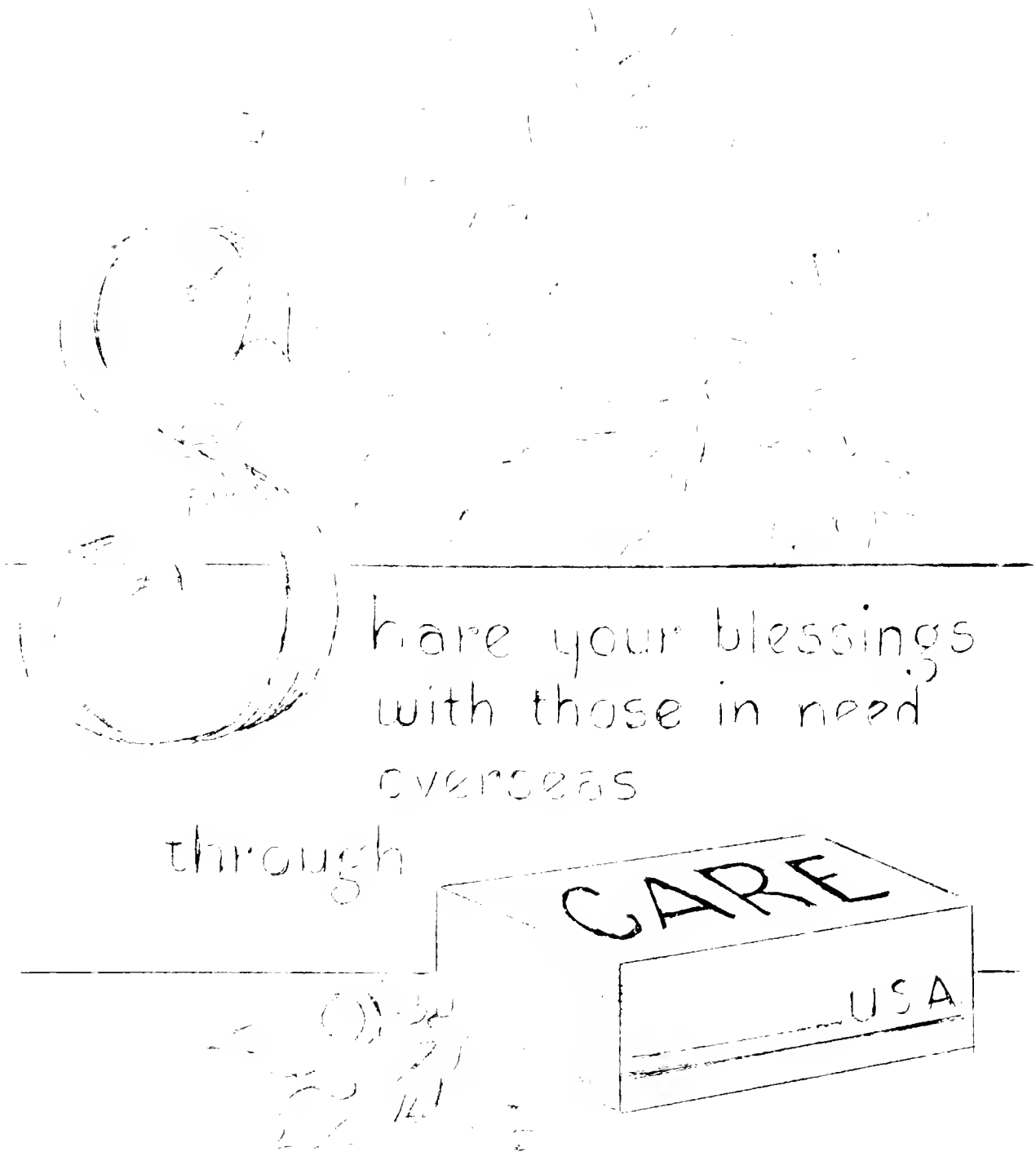
*

Are librarians worth more to any institution than its football coach? If you have any doubts, see the November 15 LIBRARY JOURNAL, page 3868.

*

And if you still consider Latin America behind the times, you will have quite a shock if you read that November 15 LJ! If you have no time to read it, the pictures of their new library buildings will tell you a bit of the story.

Page 3918 even suggests we solve some of our recruiting problems by using Latin American librarians! Does that sound as though we might find ourselves as likely to be in the position of an "underdeveloped country" needing trained library help from Latin America? Perhaps you should read the article on this angle as soon as you come out of shock...



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CARE

Susie Partridge - Open Shelf Department

Margaret Lewis - South Boston Branch Library

Mildred Jones - Book Preparation Department

November 1962

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1961

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1961

T H E Q U E S T I O N M A R K

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XVI Number 12 December 1961

Publications Committee: A. Kay Decker, James J. Ford, Rose Moorachian, Caroline R. Stanwood, I. Roger Stevens, Cartoonist, Sarah M. Usher, Indexer, Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

With Hanukkah candles recently lighted and Christmas candles yet to come, we find our thoughts constantly turning to the symbolism of these lights, and the freedoms we of the western world still enjoy, to light our candles in our own ways, and at our own times, and to spread the light of their meaning unhindered, as far as the light may shine.

Edith Wharton once wrote some lovely lines on light:

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be
The candle, or the mirror that reflects it."

All of us constantly act as either candle or mirror at will, as we take a stand on a principle, momentarily assume the lead in some cause, or reflect willingly the light from some one else's candle for a period. The light may become a blaze, seen afar, when the candle-wicks are properly trimmed, the candle upright, and joined by other similar candles, then mirrored by numbers of supporting reflecting surfaces, shining and well arranged - or - the light may carry only a few paces if the candle is awry or unreflected. In all our relationships we must remember that no mirror may reflect more than the image it receives.

The strength of our light as a staff, an administration, an institution, a community, or a nation, depends both on the candles lighted, and the mirrors which choose to reflect that light, and on the constant changing from candle to mirror among the elements which compose the whole.

Let us then, at this season, re-dedicate ourselves to being a true and shining candle for the best we believe, and a clear and balanced mirror when we wish to enlarge the light of others!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The regular November Business Meeting of the Staff Association was held on November 17 in the Temporary Conference Room. This was a lively meeting and much interest and discussion was evoked on the proposal that the Soap Box not be included in those copies of the QUESTION MARK going to other than the BPL group. A committee was appointed to study this issue and instructed to bring recommendations on this matter to the Executive Board in time to be brought to a vote in the January meeting. At the same time a committee was appointed to study the problem of admitting the civil service employees to membership in the Staff Association.

Miss Peck reports $350 collected from the staff as a contribution to Station WGBH-TV for help in rebuilding this station because of its educational programs. We offer our congratulations to her on her good work in acting as collection chairman, and to our staff who cooperated so well in their giving.

The Executive Board held their December meeting on Tuesday December 5. At this time we were primarily concerned with unfinished business. Several letters were written and we hope to see a satisfactory solution to several problems.

May I extend sincere good wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to all —

RUTH M HAYES

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees
Sinclair H. Hitchings, Print
Davida A. Sherwood, Jamaica Plain

New Employees - Northeastern students
Gerald A. Blonder, Open Shelf (re-entry)
Mrs. Catherine T. Coggan, Book Preparation, Education 1964
Frances A. Hale, Personnel (re-entry)
Joan Z. Harrington, Codman Square, Modern Languages 1965
Stephen M. Grochowski, Records, Files, Statistics, English 2d year
Elaine Miller, South End (re-entry)

Book Purchasing
Edward J. Howell (re-entry)
Anthony F. Tieuli (re-entry)
Janice E. Wright (re-entry)

Book Stack Service
Thomas Del Visco, History 1965
Ernest I. Gam, (re-entry)
Jordan M. Gold (re-entry)
John J. Kelly, (re-entry)
Robert B. MacDonald, Education 1965
Alvin Parven, Pre-law 1963
Thomas A. Sgroi, History-Government 1965

Cataloging & Classification, R & RS
Barbara LaFlamme, (re-entry)
Beverly R. Shapiro, Elementary Education 1965
Sylvia Sullivan, Modern languages, 1965
Diane B. Thompson, (re-entry)

Transferred
Mrs. Marguerite C. Franz, South Boston to Periodical and Newspaper
Susanna M. Gill, Bookmobiles to Charlestown
Mrs. Marya Knudsen, Codman Square to Washington Village
Mrs. Mary G. Langton, Adams Street to Division Office, HR & CS
Mrs. Agnes McDevitt, Lower Mills to Adams Street
Thomas T. McLaughlin, Book Stack Service to Accounting
Mary Shea, Jamaica Plain to South Boston
Joan K. Trygstad, Adams Street to Lower Mills
Mrs. Margaret R. Zindler, Dorchester to Bookmobiles

Married
Katharine Maguire, Hyde Park, to Frank Lavine, Memorial, December 2.

Resigned
Helen Donovan, Parker Hill, to work at State College
Mrs. Listena Dozier, Egleston Square
Mrs. Jean Hamrick, Washington Village, to work at Harvard
Martin Qualters, Cataloging and Classification, R&RS, to return to Northeastern

Northeastern students returning to school
Robert V. Burns, Book Stack Service
Bernard Cohen " " "
William Harting " " "
Marius Johnston " " "
Arthur MacDonald " " "
Robert Kane " " "
Patricia Fradsham, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS
Joan Merchant " " "

Elizabeth McLucas, Cataloging and Classification, R & RS
Ella White " " "
Stephen Davis, Open Shelf
Kenneth L. George, Central Book Stock - Branch Issue
Carol A. Gourley, South End
Maureen Dorion, Cataloging and Classification, HR & CS
Clara Koretsky, Codman Square
Hilary A. Wayson, Roslindale
Marion Murphy, Book Preparation
Elaine Powers " "
Brenda Franklin, Book Purchasing
Robert Minichiello, " "
Neil J. Kelly, Records, Files, Statistics
Antoinette Calabresi, Personnel

Retired
Mrs. Cecilia McCarthy, Charlestown

WHO'S NEW?

After two years as a part time worker at East Boston, Susanna M. Gill is now a full timer at Charlestown. Susanna graduated from Fitton and is interested in continuing studies toward her degree soon. She plays the piano and likes to sing.

*

Margot A. Woodward is a pre-professional Children's Assistant at Upham's Corner. Margot is a graduate of Middlebury who majored in biology. She professes a great liking for sports, especially horseback riding and ice skating, and she also draws.

*

Jordan M. Gold, Book tack Service, is a returnee from Northeastern. Jordan hails from Chelsea and spends his spare time with autos and sports. He is majoring in Business Administration and is now a sophomore.

*

Ernest L. Matthias, Business Office, graduated from Cronwall Collegiate and Vocational Institute in Canada, and served seven years in the U.S. Coast Guard. He has played semi-pro basketball and ice hockey, and is interested in all sports.

*

Mary T. Kelley, Central Charging Records, graduated from St. Columbkille and worked part time at Brighton. She likes to paint - portraits, not houses - and we also hear she is an accomplished "twister".

SPECIAL AWARD

The National Conference of Christians and Jews honored Pearl Smart, South End, with one of its Neighborhood Awards, during the annual luncheon meeting at Hampshire House on November 29. The award was made in recognition of Miss Smart's notable service in promoting understanding among groups and individuals of diverse backgrounds in the South End.

The Branch, under Miss Smart's sponsorship, has offered classes in English for Puerto Rican newcomers to the area and library space has been made available for the tutoring of young people from the South End housing project in need of such help. Programs have been presented to promote better understanding of other peoples and cultures, with speakers from Nigeria, Indonesia and other far off countries. A Young Adults council was organized to bring young people of various cultures together and this group has produced many neighborhood programs.

Miss Smart is an active participant in the South End Inter-Agency Association, the South End Planning Council, The Blackstone Park Neighborhood Association, and has had a special interest in the International Fellowships Program of the American Association of University Women, which has led to her showing hospitality to students from India, Belgium and Hongkong.

A large group of Miss Smart's friends attended the luncheon and were there to see the award presented by Dr. Robert Munce, Chancellor of Suffolk University. Among the guests from the library were the Director, the Chief Librarian and Supervisors of the Home Reading Division, and old friends and alumnae, Mrs. Helen Berkowich (Mt. Bowdoin and Mattapan) and Mrs. Minerva Elliott (Music).

HARASZTI OPEN HOUSE

An invitation showing a medieval scribe copying an old manuscript appropriately brought Library staff members to the Treasure Room on Thursday afternoon, November 30. The Treasure Room was decked in two-fold splendor. In its glass cases could be seen a spectacular display of the Library's rarities w hile on the central desk was a gleaming punchbowl, homemade goodies, and glittering candles. Both the feasts - for the eyes and for the stomach - were in honor of the approaching

retirement, after 38 years of service, of Zoltán Haraszti, Keeper of Rare Books and Editor of Publications.

Nearly one hundred members of the Library staff, past and present, attended the Open House to wish Mr. Haraszti luck and happiness in his days of well-earned leisure (already filled with enthusiastic plans of travelling and writing). Former members of the Rare Book staff who were present included Mary Malany, Julie Gurnett, Louis Ugalde, and Emily Heitmann.

Earlier in the day Mr. Haraszti was entertained at lunch at the Harvard Club by the Director and the Division Heads.

BURKE PARTY

A Good Luck party was given for Mrs. May McDonald Burke, Tuesday, November 25, at the Red Coach Grill. The party was attended by the Bookmobile staff and included some former members, among whom were Garth Henzler, Mrs. Mary Burns, and Mrs. Mary Jackson. Mrs. Burke was presented with an orchid and a string of cultured pearls. May will officially retire at the end of the year after thirty years service - and the current vacation we all hope she is enjoying.

ANN M. DUGGAN

SOUND FAMILIAR?

"It seemed to me that half the intelligence and freedom of the world was already being choked by the fog arising from committees, conventions, conferences and convocations, parochial, national, and international, that kept everybody's nerves exacerbated, and that there would be a better chance of tranquillity if all those people, dashing about ... saw less of one another's ugly faces. Now we can't catch a fish or grow a tomato or take an egg from under a hen without a committee to tell us how to do it." (From I MET A LADY by Howard Spring)

DOOM FOR PARKERS

The Library is now surrounded by signs reading 8-9.30 a.m. no parking - tow area. Watch your step! Cars actually have been towed away!

THAT EXTRA CHRISTMAS GIFT!

for CARE of course! It is not too late!

OVER THE TOP

Of course there was no "top" but we went over it just the same! Once again the staff has proved the words said in the QM (February 1961) "...it can never be said by anyone that the BPL staff is not one of the most generous groups to be found in any institution, public or private". When the Executive Board invited me to be on the receiving end for a drive to give a helping hand to our sister educational function, WGBH-TV channel 2, following its tragic fire on October 14, I did so with the complete knowledge that thestaff would be fully cooperative in such a worthy venture. This was not wrong. Although all contributions were voluntary, and no special objective was set, when the final day arrived, we had given $350. This amount was sent forward to WGBH on December 4. Over 150 staff members and their friends contributed.

It was a rewarding experience to make this collection not only for the amount received but for the spirit which was evidenced by those who gave. Each and every one who made a contribution gave not only their dollars but gave as well sincere expressions of interest and good wishes that the work of this outstanding educational television station might rise from the ashes to go forward to even greater achievements than were possible before the fire. With our $350 went the good wishes of the BPLSA for the future of this outstanding community project.

E.G.PECK for the
Executive Board

CHRISTMAS TEA

When a report of the 1960 annual staff Christmas tea was given in the January 1961 QM, the suggestion was made that "next year the young folks' pick up the ball and infuse some new ideas into this best of all BPL Christmas traditions." We are happy to note that this suggestion has been acted upon with gusto. As the young people organize - and carry out - this mammoth project, let's give them our full support. Those who over the years have served their turns on the tea committee know only too well that such a project doesn't "just happen." - it takes much planning, much hard work and the full cooperation of every staff member. Let's make this year's tea the best ever!

MATERNITY
BABIES
ARE
FUN
DO
NOT
DROP
FOR 1962
FROM 1961

CECELIA MCCARTHY

The week of December 4 may well have been called Cecelia McCarthy Week at Charlestown. At the meeting of The Friends of the Library on December 5, more than two hundred people came to pay their respects to Mrs. McCarthy on her retirement, including John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian of the Home Reading Services, Gerard Doherty, State Representative, and Frederick R. Sullivan, Sheriff of Suffolk County. A congratulatory letter, sent by Milton E. Lord, Director, was read by Margaret L. Murphy, Chairman of the Testimonial Committee.

For Cecelia it was a night to remember: a standing ovation from the crowd ... speeches of praise from patrons who over the period of forty years have enjoyed the warm, personal attention that was Mrs. McCarthy's forte. She seemed to be a constant and unchanging link of service and friendship in this all too automatic, impersonal age.

At the meeting a purse of money was also presented - in the form of an old-fashioned flower bouquet. Later, to the lusty chorus of "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow", Cecelia accepted a large book-shaped decorative cake which bore the inscription: "To Dear Cecelia - Good Luck on your Retirement."

As a contrast to the overwhelming testimonial of the "Friends", the staff decided to take Cecelia to a more intimate dinner party where she could quietly enjoy fond farewells with her closer friends and associates. On Friday evening, December 8, Mrs. McCarthy and a retinue of 21 enjoyed a sumptuous repast at the Colonial Inn in Lynnfield. In addition to Mary K. Harris, Branch Librarian, and regular staff members, some alumnae of Charlestown were on hand also: Mrs. Marion Dubrawski, Mr. and Mrs. William Casey, Mrs. and Mrs. Daniel Kelly, and Mrs. Agnes McDevitt.

"Celia" beamed over her baked stuffed lobster at us all; seemed more than pleased with her new transistor radio; and graciously and silently folded the cloak of her retirement about her and stole away into the dawn of new leisure time activities and fun.

LINDA M. IVERS

CHRISTMAS TEA

Thursday, December 21 - 3 to 4.30
Women's Lounge

RUTH MICHELSON AND EDITHA EWING REMEMBER

On November twenty-ninth, the RECORD-AMERICAN carried the following item:

"Artur Rubinstein, speaking at the BU dinner for Aaron Richmond, said he was especially fond of Boston because in Berlin, at the age of 10, he fell in love with a young lady from Boston who was just twice his age.

"She was a librarian at the Boston Public Library and he visited her until her death a few years ago. The great pianist will be 73 in January."

To Ruth Michelson, Book Selection, R & RS, this rang a bell. She thought she knew the "young lady" referred to and that another former BPLer would be able to verify her guess. The note was sent to Editha Ewing in Newton, and here is the answer from Mrs. Hartzell's assistant:

"Mrs. Hartzell was very definitely the 'young lady from Boston' Artur Rubinstein knew as a boy in Germany. She had many pictures of him and was more than thrilled when he came into public view. She knew he had talent way back then, or that was what she told me, but of course he wasn't recognized here for a long time. He came out to dinner at the house where she last lived in Newton, and what an evening they had! Pity she couldn't have lived to see and hear the acclaim he is now getting. I don't know what happened to all the pictures she had. Some old letters and papers and such were given to him that night."

For those who do not remember Training Class days, Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell was the first Supervisor of Training - and, incidentally, a devotee of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and an enthusiastic supporter of the Boston Red Sox - and is the lady in whose honor the Hartzell Lectures are given.

SARAH M. USHER

SUGAR AND SPICE

Sheila Stevens and her husband, Roger, took Miss Peck's advice, and on December 5 had another girl baby. Lucy Eileen weighed six pounds and six and one half ounces.

MEN'S OPEN HOUSE

Friday December 22 - 10-12.30. Smoking Room

STUDENT USE STILL A LARGE PROBLEM

Nineteen months ago in May 1960, the QUESTION MARK requested that something be done to alleviate the mounting problems of student use in the Library, so that by the time school should open that fall some of the pressures might be removed.

A staff improvement council was appointed and announced in an Administrative Notice of February 3, 1961, and has been meeting ever since. Yet our problems remain with us and are actually increasing. While the staff does realize that a thorough study is necessary to reach the roots of the problems, and that the BPL problems are complicated by its larger collections and great areas served, we would appreciate any small things which can be done to lessen any part of these pressures.

Even a progress report released for staff information should help the morale of that portion of the staff serving on the actual "firing line", in inadequate numbers and with rapidly failing materials (due to over use, mutilation, and theft).

Multiple assignments cause many of our problems, especially if the same assignment is given in more than one school. Here is where the wear and tear (literally) comes. For instance, class assignments in works of any one author, and this is a perennial, eliminates many of the books on that author as well as mutilation or disappearance of entire pages of periodical reviews on his works. Faulkner is a good example of missing and mutilation carnage.

Examples of multiuse assignments this fall causing difficulties in materials, space and service are:

English high class - reviews of MOBY DICK

Simmons Library School - heavy traffic in books on selection of magazines and the examination of many periodical titles, all within a very short space of time.

Suffolk University - current issues of AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST

Northeastern, entire Electrical Engineering class using May AMER. JOURNAL PHYSICS

Boston University class - three particular 1961 issues of ATLANTIC

Emerson class in English - ESQUIRE Nov, ATLANTIC and HARPERS September.

Science projects in public and parochial schools, and in a number of colleges, puts heavy usage on encyclopedias, books and periodicals, some of which can be replaced when worn, but some cannot. This is true of many periodical sets. Call slips count for November for example:

	Bound	Unbound
Readers Digest	111	54
Science Digest	138	35
Science Newsletter	299	75
Consumers Bulletin	61	81
" Report	99	188
Time	(walluse)	120

The major part of these were on student assignments and the bound volume use was chiefly within a period of the last five years. December use is rising - 70 bound volumes of Science newletter were used on one December Friday.

Emerson has another sort of "nuisance" assignment which could be the fault of the instructor. A class was to write a paper on the editorial policy of certain magazines and newspapers, with no apparent instructions as to how to go about it. As little appears in writing, they could have been instructed to examine the actual title and draw conclusions.

There has been a brief epidemic of false names and addresses on call-slips - the student then walking off with the material uncharged which does not circulate, effectively removing it from use, often permanently.

Northeastern made an assignment on honor systems in schools recently, and thereby proved there is very little honor among thieves at least, as the articles are being torn out.

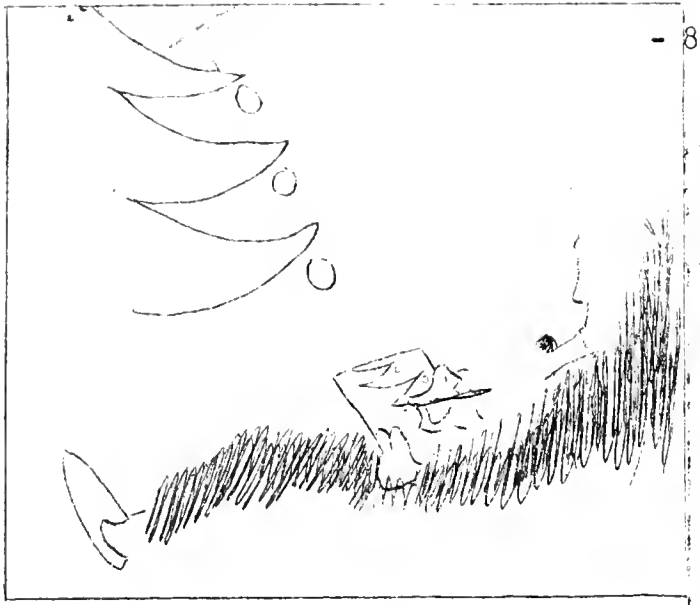
An assignment on wolf children removed an interesting research article from the Education Department. Replacement cost of that periodical is a mere $7.50

Avid and somehow hungry English teachers or students necessitates the removal of any book on teaching high school English from open shelves...whole chapters go.

Then there are the students who thoughtlessly return "hall use" materials of the special reference departments to the main return desk - thus removing them from use by other classmates for several days.

Certain textbooks and psychology (and other) volumes have a strange habit of vanishing from the shelves of various departments early in the semester, year after year, and sometimes coming home to roost at the end of the term.

The careless habit of checking or underlining passages and references with both pencil and PEN is becoming more universal.



Soap Box

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Soap Box:

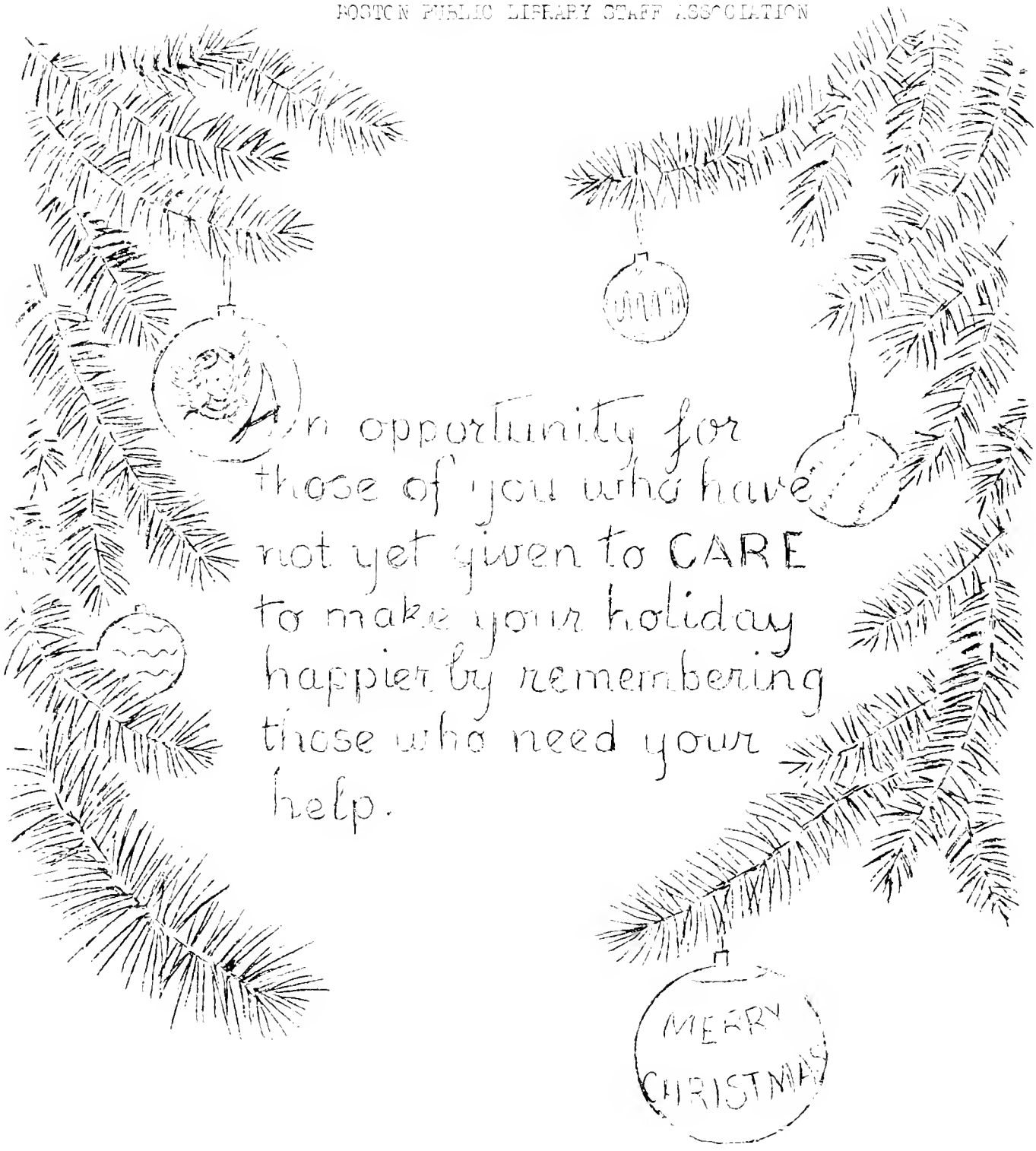
I was browsing in a large charity-type bookstore and overheard an altercation between the woman clerk and one of those floating supervisors who unexpectedly drop in. A special sale was on, and in columns under the original prices the woman was supposed to list the number of books sold at the new price. It was quite busy, people were standing in line, and the harried attendant was beginning to skip some of the listings, and this supervisor had caught her at it. He chewed her out ungently and loudly and spoke these winged words: "KEEPING THAT RECORD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MAKING THE SALE", and a Soap Subject was born.

All over the country this newest type of mover and shaker is acting as if the statistic was more important than the sale. Our Library is an organization, and an organization needs Organization Men, but we are developing more than our share of rule-minded people who do not seem to know what a library is for. These POUND-OF-FLESH-LIBRARIANS, hereinafter referred to as POFL, stand between our rich stores of books and the citizen who needs them for spiritual life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness like ogres of old, keeping them apart, sometimes for hours, sometimes for good. One POFL prevents books from being put on open shelves because of a word. Another insists on wasteful record-making before a book is brought to the reader, and a third has still useful books destroyed because of its physical condition though we have all seen what remarkable transformations such books receive from our Bindery both as to durability and looks.

I hope that BPL'rs who run into such librarians will not whisper about them in corridor or lunchroom but accost them in their fastnesses and say POFL.

HARRY ANDREWS

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION



COMMITTEE FOR CARE

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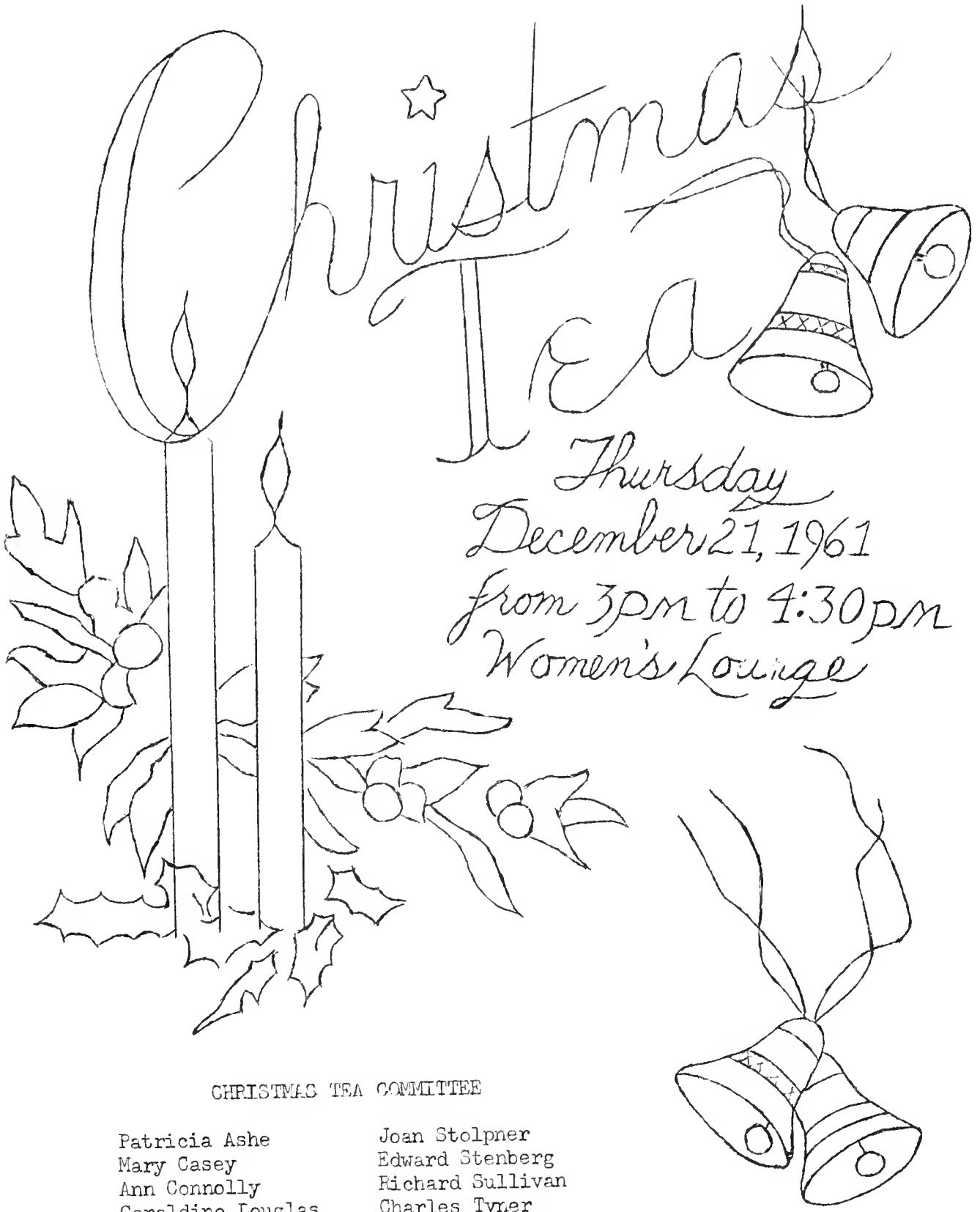
Margaret Lewis- Memorial Branch Library

Mildred Somes- Book Preparation Department



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